

Editorial

Expansion of *Carbohydrate Polymers*

There has been a substantial increase in the number of manuscripts submitted to *Carbohydrate Polymers* over the last 2 years. A consequence of this has been that the time delay between the receipt of manuscript proofs by authors and the appearance of the paper in the journal has increased. To reduce this backlog rapidly there will be a substantial increase in the size of the journal. For 2002 the number of issues in the year has been raised from 12 to 16 and the total number of pages in the year from 1296 to 1944. We aim also to raise the quality of the journal and it is encouraging to see that the latest impact factor, for the year 2000, has risen to 1.184. (The impact factor for 2000 is the number of citations in 2000 of articles published in 1998 and 1999, divided by the number of articles published in these two years.) We believe that with the number of articles being submitted we can maintain the increase in quality with the larger journal.

To further allow authors to have their peer-reviewed material put more rapidly within the public domain, Elsevier has added an *Articles in Press* section to ScienceDirect, and aims to put proofs on this site within fifteen days of receipt of accepted papers. Although these are uncorrected proofs, they can be cited by using the DOI (Digital Object Identifier) number, which is a number unique to each article. Many of *Carbohydrate Polymers'* readers will be familiar

with ScienceDirect. For those who have not used this service, ScienceDirect is Elsevier's electronic information service for academic, corporate and educational institutions, offering comprehensive coverage of literature across all fields of science. Researchers can access a critical mass of the world's STM journal titles and full-text articles (today over 1.5 million articles), search the leading STM abstract and indexing databases (providing coverage of over 30 million records) and link out to articles from an array of STM publishers—all through a variety of platforms.

With the increase in electronic access to journals, we now have better information on the extent to which journals are being read. In the first 9 months of 2001 (the latest date for which we have figures) 77,600 *Carbohydrate Polymers* articles have been downloaded by readers, which is a further indication of the significant impact of the journal.

We appreciate the support given by both readers and authors and aim to increase continually the quality of *Carbohydrate Polymers*. The Editors welcome suggestions as to how this can be achieved.

J.F. Kennedy
J.R. Mitchell
P. Sandford