

# CHEMISTRY of MATERIALS

VOLUME 11, NUMBER 1

JANUARY 1999

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## Editorial

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### ***Chemistry of Materials: A New Decade***

This year marks the 10th anniversary of *Chemistry of Materials*. As such, it seems appropriate to reflect on the history of the Journal. Our first issue appeared in January 1989. That year we published 6 issues, averaging less than 200 pages per issue, for a total of 684 pages. The following 10 years saw the volume increase dramatically to 4602 pages in 1998. In terms of papers published, the numbers are equally impressive: only 126 papers appeared in 1989 vs 574 published manuscripts just 10 years later. This increase clearly reflects the enormous worldwide growth of interest in the subject of materials-related chemistry. This field of research is now represented by at least three major journals that are specifically devoted to the subject, in addition to many others that also publish materials chemistry papers.

In response to this burgeoning interest, we have expanded our editorial offices over the last 10 years from two at the outset to four in 1998, and this year, we are adding a fifth office. Of these three new offices, two are located outside of the United States, reflecting the increasingly international perspective and scope of *Chemistry of Materials*. Our newest editorial office is located in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, and we are pleased to welcome aboard John Greedan of McMaster University as our newest Associate Editor. Please note that manuscripts should continue to be submitted to either the central office in Troy, New York, or to our European office in Munster, Germany (see the Notice to Authors for details).

Another change that you may have noticed this year is our new cover design. This design uses the full front cover for the illustration of the month, typically selected from one of the papers in that issue. As indicated in the Notice to Authors, we intend to continue the past

practice of giving illustrations from review papers preference among artwork that has been submitted for possible use on the cover. When there are no reviews in a particular issue, we will select the cover illustration from other papers that appear in that issue or, if there are no suitable candidates, from a previously published paper. For this reason, all authors are encouraged to submit illustrations (preferably color) for consideration when their paper has been accepted for publication. Please see the Notice to Authors for details regarding the preferred format for such illustrations.

*Chemistry of Materials* continues to welcome the submission of two types of review papers, research- and technology-based. Both types of reviews are peer reviewed and must meet the general criteria of originality, overall quality, and general significance to the materials chemistry community that we have set for all papers that we publish. The two types of reviews are distinguished by the subject matter. The technology-based manuscripts are intended to focus on a major area of materials chemistry related to key technologies and to outline the major technical problems for which new materials or improved understanding of materials-related chemistry is needed for future progress. We encourage the submission of both types of reviews, and prospective authors are invited to contact the Editor or any of the Associate Editors regarding their interest in preparing a review to determine if the intended subject matter and scope seem appropriate and are not overlapped by other reviews that may be in progress.

While the Journal has seen substantial growth that all of us in the materials chemistry community can be proud of, growth comes with its own set of problems and issues. All American Chemical Society journals have

established "page budgets" or preset limits on the number of pages that can be published in a given year. An increase in the page budget translates directly to an increase in the cost of publication, which must eventually be passed on to the subscriber (you or your library) in the form of increased subscription costs. Moreover, when we accept more pages for publication than can be accommodated within our page budget, we face potential delays in the publication of papers that are accepted for publication during the latter part of the year. *Chemistry of Materials* has managed to hold the cost of a subscription to a reasonably low level and to maintain a relatively fast receipt-to-publication rate, despite the considerable increase in the number of papers being submitted over the past few years. Unfortunately, in addition to increasing numbers of papers being submitted, we are also experiencing an apparent growth in the average page size of accepted papers. We remain committed to the rapid publication of papers that meet high standards of quality, significance, and interest but must ensure that these papers also meet the criterion of utmost conciseness consistent with clarity of presentation. In preparing manuscripts, we ask our authors to remember that journal space is very limited. While the ability to publish more papers in a given issue is an obvious advantage, it is also important to remember that shorter, more precise papers tend to communicate better to the reader and thus are more effective in relaying the significance of the research.

Starting in 1999, we will be asking reviewers to specifically determine whether the paper under review meets this requirement of conciseness, and we will be examining particularly carefully any papers that exceed 30 double-spaced manuscript pages, including tables, figures, and schemes. (As a reminder to our authors, submitted manuscripts *must* be double-spaced and we will return any that do not meet this requirement, as it makes reviewing and editing difficult.) In addition, we remind authors to send figures already sized to single-column width. This should lead to better looking figures,

regarding type size and line width, as well as more effective use of journal space.

Please note, in this issue, the revised Notice to Authors. This notice contains further details regarding the submission of manuscripts in electronic form and about the preferred format for illustrations, including those submitted for possible use on the cover, as well as the increased focus on conciseness in the evaluation of manuscripts submitted for publication. *It is important to follow these recommendations carefully as manuscripts are prepared.* Doing so will assist everyone involved in the publication process and help speed the publication of your paper.

It is also important to note that *Chemistry of Materials* is available in electronic form via the World Wide Web. Papers appear on the Web As Soon As Publishable (ASAP), with free access to the papers' Supporting Information, and the Web product has increased functionality, including the ability to electronically search the documents. Coming soon will be the capability for authors to link their home pages to their paper in *Chemistry of Materials* on the Web.

Throughout its history, all those individuals associated with *Chemistry of Materials* have been committed to providing the materials chemistry audience with high-quality papers in a timely manner. We have enjoyed close interactions with our authors, reviewers, and readers, all of whom have helped establish our tradition of excellence. As we begin the second decade of *Chemistry of Materials*, and approach the new millennium, we look forward to continuing those interactions and to stimulating further advances in the chemistry associated with the design and engineering of materials.

Best wishes for a happy and successful 1999.

**Elsa Reichmanis**

*Associate Editor*

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