

Dear Readers, Authors, and Referees,

The start of a new year is always a good time for reviewing progress – what did we achieve in 2003? Did EurJOC come up to our expectations? To start with, we have again beaten our own records, both in terms of submitted manuscripts (12 % more than in 2002) and in terms of page numbers (17 % more; altogether we had 4952 pages in 2003). Although we do not know exactly how our

Increased
manuscript
flow

competitor journals have developed over the last five years, we are convinced that a near doubling of the number of printed pages over this period is rare indeed. Let us hope that the ISI impact factor reflects this success. Quite naturally, the highest proportion of manuscripts is received from members of our owner countries (55 %). Much to our delight, our new Associate Member countries (Austria, the Czech Republic, and Sweden) have followed suit with 4 % of submitted manuscripts. But – and we would like to emphasize once more – EurJOC is made in Europe for the world, and so we are particularly pleased that the percentage of manuscripts from outside Europe has also increased. In 2003, 4 % of all our manuscripts were received from the USA and Canada and 7 % from Japan (compared to 2.5 % and 3 %, respectively, in 2002).

ManuscriptXpress, the new online submission of manuscripts, in conjunction with the author/referee homepage system, has also turned out to be very successful. Online submission is now broadly accepted by authors, as testified by the 85 % of

manuscriptXpress

our manuscripts that are sent to us this way. Authors can upload a manuscript as, for example, a WORD or RTF document, from which the system generates a PDF file. This PDF file can be easily ac-

cessed by the referees through their personal homepages, who can then submit their reports online. Authors can also conveniently gain access to their own manuscripts at any stage of publication by the same means. “The web-based submission and referee system of EurJOC is great”, one of the first referees to use this system told us. For more information, please refer to our Guidelines for Authors on page A1. The main point here is that this system, together with the reorganization of the editorial office, has helped to reduce our publication times. This is important to us because these days it is one of the topics most frequently raised by our authors – and potential authors.

Average publication times are currently 4.6 months for Full Papers and 3.0 months for Short Communications.

The (publication)
times, they are
a-changin’

Furthermore, as of July 2003, selected publications are available online in advance of print (“Early View” in *Wiley InterScience*). But then again, what do these figures mean to you when you submit a manuscript; in other words, what relevance do statistics have for individual cases? The first hurdle after submission is, of course, the peer review process. Thanks to our referees, in most cases a decision can be made within one month after submission. Nevertheless, even if the refereeing process goes smoothly, referees may ask for major alterations, and it can take some time to address the issues raised. If this happens, a publication time above average is likely, but we are sure you will agree that this is acceptable in view of the improvements to the manuscript that result. After all, it is quality that counts, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank our referees who have helped to maintain – if not increase – the high scientific level of the journal.

Of course, EurJOC is a journal of constantly developing and advancing science; the communication of progress in modern organic chemistry is

the main purpose of the journal. However, we also think it important to look back and ask questions about where modern chemistry came from, and how it developed. This we do by our obituaries on eminent scientists. Clearly, this should be an international effort as well, and we are therefore pleased to present the biography of Professor Tet-suo Nozoe, one of the giants of Japanese chemistry, in a forthcoming issue. We encourage other authors to follow this example – such biographical information is an important resource not only for those who catalogue the progress and history of science, but for scientists themselves.

What else is there to say? Soon, on a monthly basis the Short Communications, Full Papers, and Microreviews most often downloaded during the previous month will be presented on our homepage, with a link to the article in *Wiley InterScience*, as requested by many of our readers. We have an open ear for your comments, so please do not hesitate to contact us if you have a suggestion as to how we might improve our service. For your information, the EurJOC articles most frequently downloaded from *Wiley InterScience* in 2003 are listed in Table 1. Please note

Top ten

that this does not necessarily reflect the true importance of the paper, because older articles are more likely to have been downloaded. And lest we forget, since last summer EurJOC has ranked among the top ten journals in *Wiley InterScience*

with regard to total downloads in 2003. On that positive note, the chairman of the Editorial Board and the Editor wish you a happy and successful year in 2004.

Table 1. Most frequently downloaded EurJOC articles in 2003*

Title	Corresponding author	Issue
New Methods for the Preparation of Aromatic Aldehydes	Willi Kantlehner	14
The Power of High-Throughput Experimentation in Homogeneous Catalysis Research for Fine Chemicals	Johannes G. de Vries	5
Recent Developments in the Isonitrile-Based Multicomponent Synthesis of Heterocycles	Jieping Zhu	7
The Development of a Practical Total Synthesis of Discodermolide, a Promising Microtubule-Stabilizing Anticancer Agent	Ian Paterson	12
Reactions on Monolayers: Organic Synthesis in Two Dimensions	Wilhelm T. S. Huck	1
Recent Advances in the Total Synthesis of Piperidine and Pyrrolidine Natural Alkaloids with Ring-Closing Metathesis as a Key Step	Jacques Lebreton	19
Construction of Spiro[pyrrolidine-3,3'-oxindoles] – Recent Applications to the Synthesis of Oxindole Alkaloids	Erick M. Carreira	12
Asymmetric Total Synthesis of the Gastroprotective Microbial Agent AI-77-B (Full Paper)	Arun K. Ghosh	5
Carbon-Carbon Bond Formation with Electrogenenerated Nickel and Palladium Complexes	Elisabet Duñach	9
Group-IV Metal Complexes as Hydroamination Catalysts	Sven Doye	6
* Microreviews unless indicated otherwise		

Henning Hopf
Chairman of the Editorial Board

Haymo Ross
Editor