



Karen Hindson

The Changing Face of Chemistry Society Publishing

The start of the European Journal of Organic Chemistry ten years ago added another major player to the field of Organic Chemistry society journals. The move was unprecedented: attempts at European cooperation in the earliest stages of chemistry publishing had not got off the ground. By the second half of the 20th century three major single society publishing hubs had emerged, besides many other societies that published their own national general chemistry journal, often with commercial publishers. The time was ripe for change. European chemists began to work for a paradigm shift.

Upon the initiative of Jean-Marie Lehn, Peter Göltz, the GDCh, and Wiley-VCH (the publishing partner of the GDCh), the publication of one journal (*Chemistry – A European Journal*) co-owned by a union of societies was started in 1995. Understandably the vision of two journals with a strong base in Inorganic and Organic Chemistry to replace the many national journals took longer, as the societies had to secure an equitable partnership. Heindirk tom Dieck of the German Chemical Society and Eva Wille of Wiley-VCH worked ceaselessly, travelling across Europe to meet with society officials to discuss terms of the amalgamation. First two (see the first coloured cover above), then six, nine, ten and finally thirteen European chemical societies now profit from the development. Originally the editors of the individual journals acted as a panel of Editors-in-Chief for the new journals, till the growing number of submissions led to the formation of an editorial board and one editor employed by Wiley-VCH, similar to the structure of the other European Journals. The changeover was exactly in the middle of the ten years!

Not only was the union of societies growing. The growing trust in each other and their publisher Wiley-VCH led the French society to give up their journal *Journal de Chimie Physique et de Physico-Chimie Biologique* to make way for a co-owned, high-quality platform for the union's members whose research lies on the border of physics, chemistry and biophysics. Scientists working in interdisciplinary research in chemistry and biology could not be left out – *ChemPhysChem* and *ChemBioChem* were born in 2000. The growing family of journals prompted the societies to formalize their union as the Editorial Union of Chemical Societies (EUCheMoc) in 2002. Again the closer ties led the Italian society to offer two journals to the family, *Il Farmaco* – *An International Journal of Medicinal Chemistry* and *Pharmaceutical Chemistry* as springboard for *ChemMedChem* (2006) and *Annali di Chimica* as basis for the imminent journal *ChemSusChem* (2008).

In line with the development in Europe, chemical societies in Asia have banded together to form the Asian Chemical Editorial Society (ACES). Thus in 2007 with the emergence of multisociety publishing groupings, the number of society publishing hubs has grown and smaller societies also share in the advantages. Finally, Wiley-VCH is part of John Wiley & Sons, who in this February – in their bicentennial year – merged with Blackwell Publishing to form Wiley-Blackwell, now the world's leading society publisher. The strengthened global outlook of the company ensures that the European Journals family will combine the European touch with an international appeal. May not only EurJOC, but also the sister journals and the societies in EUCheMoc, go from strength to strength.

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