
Editorial

The *Journal of Photochemistry and Photobiology* has seen its twenty-fifth birthday come and go, and celebrated the publication of its one-hundredth volume. In the years since the journal first appeared (as the *Journal of Photochemistry*), the field of photochemistry has burgeoned and diversified. The journal has tried to keep abreast of the developments, the increase in research activity, and the changes in emphasis in the subject. As the need has arisen, Associate Editors have joined the editorial team in order to provide expertise in appropriate areas of photochemistry. A new departure was signalled in 1989, when the journal appointed an Editor with special responsibility for the geographical area of North America. Over recent years, it has become evident that the numbers of research papers submitted from Asia would warrant the establishment of a similar editorship to look after the interests of authors and readers from countries on the Asian continent.

It gives us very great pleasure to announce that Professor Hiroshi Masuhara of Osaka University, Japan, has accepted our invitation to hold the post of Asian Editor of the journal. Professor Masuhara will be well known to readers of the journal. He is a distinguished photochemist, currently holding the post of professor in the Department of Applied Physics at the University of Osaka. He has more than 300 research papers and reviews to his credit. Professor Masuhara's research interests are wide ranging: he has published in the fields of photophysics, photochemistry and fluorescence characterization of films and powders; of the laser photochemistry of polymers in solution; and of charge-transfer, electron-transfer, exciplex and excimer formation, and related processes in solution. He has also been a pioneer in the use of photochemistry for modification, nanofabrication and molecular deposition of various materials, and, especially, in the application of lasers in microchemistry, microspectroscopy, micromanipulation, ablation, and related morphological change. Professor Masuhara is thus an ideal complement to our editorial team, embodying, as he does, photochemical interests from the most fundamental to the most applied.

Prospective authors in Asia should send their papers to Professor Masuhara direct to his address in Osaka:

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The publishers and Editors hope that the appointment of an Editor for Asia will represent a further valuable step in making the journal truly international, and they believe that it will make the handling of papers easier and faster.

We should like to remind all photochemists that the *Journal of Photochemistry and Photobiology* exists to meet their needs, both for publication and for providing access to the most exciting, topical and original research in the field. To succeed in these goals, the Editors wish to encourage enthusiastically the submission of papers describing novel research from all members of the photochemical community. The publishers, for their part, are currently striving to reduce publication delays, and the initiative of affording our team by an Asian Editor represents one facet of this effort.

The Editors warmly welcome Professor Masuhara to the journal, and look forward to a long period of fruitful and successful collaboration with him.

R.P. Wayne
J.D. Coyle
N.S. Allen
R.P. Steer