

Macromolecules

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Editorial

It is my pleasure to bring you a brief report from the Editorial Office of *Macromolecules* on the first anniversary of my assuming the responsibilities so ably managed by my predecessor Bob Lenz. By the most readily accessible measures, the trends maintain a favorable course. The total number of submissions continues to increase and will approach 2300 for calendar 2001. Of these, approximately 1400 will be published in the journal. The Editorial team has achieved a brisk average turnaround in processing manuscripts; the median time between receipt of a new manuscript and the first relaying of reviews and editorial assessment is down to about 10 weeks. Of course, we hope to reduce this time even further, especially for Communications; this should be facilitated by the advent of Web submissions, discussed below. The typical times from acceptance to appearance on the Web (about 6 weeks), and from acceptance to appearance in print (9–10 weeks), have also been significantly shortened in recent years. *Macromolecules* continues to lead all regular journals in the broad field of macromolecular science, in both impact factor and total number of citations. For this enviable position many thanks are due to the authors who submit high-quality manuscripts and to the reviewers who help maintain those high standards.

Several important changes in procedure have either been implemented or will be shortly, as detailed below.

- The cover of the journal will be changed more frequently than annually, with an initial target of every quarter. To this end, we encourage authors to bring candidate material to the attention of the Editorial Office at Minnesota. Ideally, the selected work will be based on results of substantial novelty and potential impact, drawn from a recently published article in *Macromolecules*.

- As noted in these pages last year, publication of color images in *Macromolecules* is free of charge to the author, once the need for color has been approved by the Editor handling the manuscript.

- Within a few weeks, Web submissions to *Macromolecules* will be enabled, initially for Communications only. Please consult the journal's Web site for information on the Web submission process. It is important to emphasize that Web submissions must be processed through the Web site, where original files are converted to pdf format, logged in to the database, and forwarded to the Editorial Office for processing. Do not e-mail files directly to the Editorial Office, as they will not be recognized. Once the Web submission system is functioning smoothly, it will be extended to accept regular articles as well.

- For authors who utilize the file preparation program TEX, or its variants, we are pleased to report that the production department has new software that preserves the content of TEX equations in most cases. Editing for ACS style and format may still be done during journal production. While proof-reading of equations is still necessary, it should take less effort. Furthermore, we are in the process of developing a standard TEX template; details will be available on the Web.

As you are well aware, the successful operation of a journal is critically dependent on the skill and dedication of the Editors. I have been very fortunate to have inherited such a team, and their patience, advice, and efficiency have made the transition as smooth as could be hoped for. The lot of an Associate Editor is not always a happy one, as tasks such as chivying recalcitrant reviewers and calming irate authors consume significant blocks of time. Furthermore, neither public expressions of appreciation nor financial compensation begin to approach levels commensurate with the effort expended. In short, our community is in substantial debt to these individuals. I bring this up now in order to recognize in particular two Associate Editors who have served the journal exceptionally well for many years and who both decided to step down at the end of 2001. Dr. John Rabolt joined the Board of Editors in 1992, when he was working at IBM Almaden, and continued through his move to the University of Delaware in 1996. At Delaware John has been working strenuously to build the Materials Science and Engineering Department, while maintaining an active and internationally recognized research program of his own. His expertise in the broad areas of polymer surfaces, interfaces, and spectroscopy has been invaluable as those subjects have blossomed during his tenure with *Macromolecules*. Dr. John Bendler joined the Board of Editors in 1994, shortly after his move from GE to the South Dakota School of Mines. John's expertise is in polymer theory, and his careful, thorough, and diplomatic handling of manuscripts in that very far-reaching area has been commended to me by many leaders in the field. John has recently accepted a new position at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, and relinquishing the Editorial post will permit him to devote more time to research. We wish both John R. and John B. great and continued success in their future endeavors.

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