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Editorial

A happy new year from all of us at *Macromolecules*. It has been a very successful year at the journal, and I would like to take this opportunity to share news of some recent developments and to thank you for your continued support.

Table of Contents Graphics. Last year we discussed the desirability of extending the Table of Contents Graphics to all articles, now that it is well established and successful for Communications. After hearing from many interested parties, we have decided to institute Table of Contents Graphics for all submissions to *Macromolecules*, effective with this issue. However, whereas the graphics are required for Communications, and appear in both print and Web versions, those for Articles and Notes will only appear on the Web. We hope you enjoy this new feature.

Processing Issues. Submissions continue to increase steadily, by about 5–10% per year. The overall acceptance rate has also continued to decrease steadily, and in 2004 it fell below 50% for the first time. As noted last year, a significant and increasing fraction of manuscripts are being declined without seeking external review. Some of these decisions are based on the conclusion that the subject matter lies beyond the scope of the journal. Others are based on the perception that the material presented, while perhaps perfectly correct, is neither sufficiently new nor interesting to a broad audience for a journal that encompasses such a wide range of macromolecular science. We appreciate your understanding of this necessity. As a corollary, it is particularly helpful when authors indicate clearly in their submission cover letter the significance of the manuscript (as is explicitly requested on the Paragon submission page). Despite the increasing submissions, I am particularly pleased to report that the median time between manuscript receipt and first return of reviews to the authors has continued to decline and is now about 7 weeks. Finally, you may notice a new font in the journal; we have moved from Century Schoolbook to Times Roman. This change is necessitated by the Scientific and Technical Information Exchange (STIX) project, in which several publishers, the American Chemical Society included, are developing a standard series of fonts that will transfer reliably across various Web browsers, word processors, and other software platforms.

Associate Editors. After 14 years as an Associate Editor, Dr. Herbert Morawetz, Polytechnic University (retired), has decided to step down; rumors that *Macromolecules* has a mandatory retirement age of 90 for Editors and Associate Editors are unfounded! Dr. Morawetz has had an extremely distin-



Chi Wu

guished career in polymer science, extending back over several decades; the community has benefited tremendously from his vast experience, insight, and patience. Several younger scientists, especially from overseas, have expressed to me their appreciation for his careful guidance in developing their writing skills. We will all miss him greatly.

On behalf of the Editorial team at *Macromolecules*, I am delighted to announce that Dr. Chi Wu, of The Chinese University of Hong Kong, has joined us as an Associate Editor effective January 2006. Dr. Wu is very well-known for his work on polymer solutions, networks, gels, nanoparticles, and self-assembly. In addition, he has extensive experience in polymer characterization and is one of the world's foremost authorities in scattering techniques in general and light scattering in particular. The community will profit from his remarkably diverse background, which includes professional experience on three continents. Dr. Wu received his PhD in 1987 from the State University of New York at Stony Brook, under the guidance of Professor Benjamin Chu. Following another 2 years at Stony Brook as a postdoctoral fellow, he moved to BASF in Ludwigshafen, Germany, to supervise the Laser Light Scattering Laboratory. In 1992 he accepted a faculty position in Chemistry at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Currently he is Professor of Chemistry, Chairman of the Chemistry Department, and Director of the Institute of Science and Technology. At the same time he is Professor of Chemical Physics at the University of Science

and Technology of China, in Hefei, where he originally earned his B.S. degree. His contributions, which include over 250 papers and 7 patents, have been recognized in many ways, including a Humboldt Foundation Fellowship (1990), the Distinguished Young Scholar Award of the Qiu Shi Foundation (1997), Fellowship in the American Physical Society (1999), the Croucher Award (2000), the Young Scientist Award from the Chinese Academy of Sciences (2001), the China National Science Award, 2nd Class (2003), and election to the Chinese Academy of Sciences (2003). He has served on numerous Editorial Advisory Boards, including for *Macromolecules*, and has collaborated with scientists all over the world. We are also pleased that Dr. Wu becomes the third overseas Associate Editor

for *Macromolecules* and the first to be based in Asia. We look forward to sharing the benefits of his wisdom and insight for years to come.

We are eager to serve the *Macromolecules* community in 2006. We welcome your manuscript submissions, we appreciate your prompt and constructive reviews, and we value your advice and suggestions for improvement.

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