
Editorial

As NJC celebrates its 25th anniversary, the progress continues

After one year as Editor-in-Chief, I am very enthusiastic about how NJC continues to progress, allowing creative chemists to express themselves at their best. Taking the quality and diversity of the communications published in *ChemComm* as a model, the role of NJC is to promote all aspects of chemistry and to expose the richness of its various specialties and subfields, without neglecting its numerous interfaces with other sciences.

January 2002 marks the 25th anniversary of NJC. 2001 was an excellent year for NJC. The 2000 impact factor, which was released in June, was 3.009, a big increase from the value of 2.206 for the previous year. The number of submissions, in constant progression the last few years, has more than doubled, to nearly 600, since 1997. These excellent results are due to the hard work of all the people associated with the journal—the editorial boards and associate editors, and the staff at the RSC and CNRS—and I wish to thank them for their efforts. I also wish to thank the authors, who have expressed their confidence in our journal by publishing in it, and who are a vital component in the success of any journal.

Apparently, the advantages offered by the journal, as by all other RSC journals (fast publication times, professional editing, free colour reproduction when scientifically recommended, eligibility for Travel Grants to Authors), are attractive to the chemical community. The wide distribution of the journal through its inclusion in various RSC subscription packages has also considerably increased its visibility.

2001 also saw the debut of the “NJC Opinion” rubric, with 3 Opinions having been published. The 4th by yours truly is in this issue. The Opinions thus far show the variety possible with this format, which is meant to be flexible and open to all scientists to express their opinions on topics related to chemistry. I invite all chemists to take advantage of this opportunity. It would be wonderful if many interesting Opinions could “mushroom” in the upcoming years with the help and participation of the eminent chemists who are members of the boards of all the RSC journals.

In 2002 the RSC will be inaugurating two new services. First, starting in January 2002, electronic access to the PDF version of all journal articles, including NJC, published before January 2000 will be freely available. The second quarter of 2002 will see the launch of an RSC chemical biology website. This joint venture between RSC Publishing and the Chemical Biology Forum will provide a valuable resource for the chemical biology community. A major component will be a virtual journal, bringing together links to all the RSC’s published material in chemical biology.

NJC was founded as a general chemistry journal and it has tried, with more or less success, to affirm this generalist character over the years. Since the beginning of the CNRS/RSC collaboration in 1998, the editorial boards have strongly supported this vocation for the journal. NJC will remain a forum in which all branches of chemistry, as well as its interdisciplinary offshoots, can find expression.

My goal during my tenure as Editor-in-Chief is not only to ensure this variety, but also to expand it. Certain areas of chemistry, such as co-ordination chemistry, theory, electrochemistry, supramolecular chemistry and crystal engineering, have been traditionally well-represented, and of course I expect that chemists working in these fields will continue to be the backbone of NJC for awhile longer. However, as NJC is a generalist chemistry journal, I would like to see greater representation of fields such as catalysis and catalysts, nano-matter chemistry, the chemistry of complex architectures, polymer chemistry, including dendrimers and hyperbranched systems, and also of research at the interface of chemistry and other disciplines. With your help, I am sure that NJC can continue to progress.

In closing, I wish all our readers and NJC associates a very happy and productive year 2002!

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