

Editorial: The First Three Years

As Editor-in-Chief I would again like to thank the chemistry community for the very warm reception and strong support that *Organic Letters* has received during our first three years. As we begin Volume 4, I thought it worth briefly reflecting on our short history to evaluate our progress and to celebrate our accomplishments. During this period, *Organic Letters* has published over 2,500 papers and 10,000 pages. The ability to submit and review manuscripts using the Web has been welcomed, and indeed has changed the way we now submit, review, and publish our most important results. Over 85% of our papers are submitted via the Web! The rapid availability of accepted, edited papers ASAP on the web is also appreciated.

That *Organic Letters* has become an important venue for disclosing significant results in all areas of organic chemistry, including bioorganic and medicinal chemistry, physical and theoretical organic chemistry, natural products isolation and synthesis, new synthetic methodology, and organometallic and materials chemistry, is clearly evident by the fact that we currently average over 100,000 hits per month to the *Organic Letters* Web site. In 2001, *Organic Letters* had more than 1 million total Web views and downloads.

I am also extremely pleased to report that our first Impact Factor, calculated by the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI), places *Organic Letters* in the top 10 journals for organic chemistry. In fact *Organic Letters* is second only to *The Journal of Organic Chemistry* among journals publishing more than 100 articles in 2000. Clearly the organic chemistry community is reading and using the important, new chemistry that you publish in *Organic Letters*. It is "exactly where you want to be!"

Looking forward to 2002 and beyond, I am delighted to welcome two new Associate Editors: John Vederas (University of Alberta) and Gary Molander (University of Pennsylvania). Their extensive experience and expertise will add great breadth to the areas of synthetic methodology, organometallic chemistry, biosynthesis, and bioorganic chemistry. This brings the total to nine Associate Editors to ensure the rapid and fair review of your manuscripts. To continue and augment further the close relationship between *The*

Journal of Organic Chemistry and *Organic Letters*, Cynthia Burrows has agreed to continue her role of Associate Editor, while at the same time assuming the post of Senior Editor of *The Journal of Organic Chemistry*. This cross association of editorships will ensure the continued hallmark of excellence established under the outstanding leadership of both Clayton Heathcock and Peter Stang. Certainly all of us at *Organic Letters* wish to take this opportunity to thank Dale Poulter for his most valuable service as an Associate Editor, and we eagerly look forward to working closely with Dale, as he assumes the post of Editor-in-Chief of *The Journal of Organic Chemistry*.

I would also like to thank again both the authors who trust us with their timely and most important work and the reviewers who selflessly and meticulously evaluate our manuscripts. Be assured that the Associate Editors and I are fully committed to providing the organic community with the most reliable and well-documented methods in the chemical literature. To this end, we request that when authors provide new procedures, they are fully described in detail, preferably in the Supporting Information or as footnotes to ensure reproducibility, that the new compounds are characterized by appropriate spectroscopic methods, that a criterion of purity is provided for compounds for which a yield is reported, and that proper descriptions of the methods used and the results obtained for analysis of stereochemical composition are included.

As to the future of *Organic Letters*, the ACS Publications Division is developing an enhanced Web manuscript submission and review system, which will integrate with a new production system, facilitating even more efficient handling of manuscripts. The ACS staff is also working to augment the Web editions. In addition to links from article references to full text or abstracts, the ACS has added enhanced graphics in some papers, which include direct links to features such as 3-D structures or executable programs. We encourage you to explore these new features.

In closing, thank you for your generous support over the past three years and for helping to define the future of this important enterprise.

Amos B. Smith, III

Editor-in-Chief

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