

Editorial 2005

As we enter year seven, *Organic Letters* continues to be a major venue for the rapid publication of high impact, high quality organic research, including bioorganic and medicinal chemistry, physical and theoretical organic chemistry, natural products isolation and synthesis, new synthetic methods, and organometallic and materials chemistry. We are delighted that *Organic Letters* has become a “must read” journal for the organic community, as evidenced by an impact factor of 4.092 in 2003, making *Organic Letters* the highest ranked communications journal in Organic Chemistry for the fourth consecutive year. Our web statistics also indicate a “must read/must follow” status. As of the beginning of November, the *Organic Letters*’ home page had over 3 million hits from 125 countries, with an average monthly usage of 335,000 views, which is a 30% increase over 2003. *Organic Letters* is indeed “exactly where you want to be!”

High standards are the hallmark of *Organic Letters*. To this end, we continue to make changes as necessary to improve our procedures and practices to ensure the highest possible quality and speed of publication that the community has come to expect. For example, we have fine-tuned our guidelines on Supporting Information again this year to ensure that we provide the most reliable and well-documented methods in the chemical literature. We call particular attention to the requirements for describing microwave equipment and yield data provided for preparative experiments.

Our biggest change for 2005, however, is our move to exclusive web manuscript submission. *Organic Letters*, along with several other ACS journals, will no longer accept hardcopy submissions as of January 1, 2005. We reached this decision after careful consideration. As you will recall, last year I requested feedback from the community regarding any hardships that web-only submission would cause. In the interim, I have been reassured that the overwhelming majority of authors see no difficulty with this decision. In 2004 over 97% of our submissions have been via the web. Clearly authors welcome the speed, efficiency, and cost savings of web submissions. Of course, we will work with authors who have difficulty accessing the Paragon web submission site to ensure that their manuscripts are posted

to the web for rapid review. Authors are encouraged to contact the Editor-in-Chief’s office or the Journal Help Desk (journalhelp@acs.org) for assistance.

Another significant change in 2005 is the introduction of enhanced versions of the *Organic Letters* manuscript template for Word 98 and Word 2001 (Mac) and Word 2000 [Windows (PC)]. The enhancements were developed to address occasional difficulties authors encountered in using the templates, such as insertion and placement of graphics. A graphics/tables toolbar will now facilitate inserting figures, tables, and schemes into a manuscript. We also devised a styles toolbar to apply the various text styles. The improved templates are now available from the Paragon Submission website; see the template “readme file” for details of the new features. We at *Organic Letters* hope that these enhancements will make manuscript submission even easier than in the past.

The Editors and I want to again thank our reviewers for their help in maintaining the high standards we work to achieve at *Organic Letters*. One of our most valuable resources is the time and effort that our reviewers contribute to read and evaluate the manuscripts submitted to *Organic Letters*. We greatly value this resource and will use it wisely. In particular, we do not want our reviewers to struggle to follow the research presented in a poorly constructed manuscript presented in poor English, or to attempt to evaluate conclusions without adequate Supporting Information. Therefore, potential authors should be aware that we examine every manuscript received prior to peer review for completeness (i.e., Supporting Information) and to determine that the text can be easily read and understood. Manuscripts that do not meet our initial standards will be inactivated and returned for revision. Corrected manuscripts will then require resubmission as new manuscripts.

We also take this opportunity to request that the reviewer community pay particular attention to examining manuscripts for accurate attribution to previous work. On occasion, a small number of authors have not been as forthright in establishing attribution to previous work as the chemical community deserves. We at *Organic Letters* will certainly strive to ensure the accuracy of literature attribution.

Authors should also be aware that Organic Chemistry comprises a small community. Often the same chemist is requested to review a manuscript multiple times as the manuscript proceeds through the publication process. A reviewer who sees a manuscript that is essentially unchanged from a previous submission will not be favorably disposed toward a positive review. In most cases, it is to the author's advantage to disclose any relevant information about previous submissions and to take advantage of any reviewer suggestions and comments. Authors of course may request that a manuscript be reviewed without the prejudice of the previous review. Remember that the purpose of the review process is to improve the quality and accuracy of the chemical research published.

Organic Letters will have some changes in editorship in 2005. Scott Denmark, who has served as an Associate Editor since the inception of the journal, and who provided great insight early on concerning the development of the concept of *Organic Letters*, steps down after six years at the end of 2004. His high standards, energy, and high level of commitment to provide a quality journal will be missed. I am, however, pleased to report that, as of January 2005, Janine Cossy of the Ecole Supérieure de Physique et de Chimie Industrielles (ESPCI) joins *Organic Letters* as Associate Editor. Professor Cossy brings considerable expertise and experience in synthetic and mechanistic organic chemistry. We welcome Janine and look forward to working with her. The appointment of Professor Cossy brings to four the number of international Associate Editors.

Amos B. Smith, III

Editor-in-Chief
December 16, 2004

OL040071T