

Fifth Anniversary: A New Year and New Procedures

With this issue, *ACS Applied Materials & Interfaces* begins its sixth year of publishing state-of-the-art research in the field of materials and interfacial science and engineering with emphasis on novel and important applications. As editors of the journal, we have been very pleased to see how rapidly it has been accepted by the community. We take this opportunity to thank the authors, reviewers, editors, advisory board members, ACS Publications staff, and the editorial supporting organizations, all of whom have contributed to *ACS Applied Materials & Interfaces'* success.

ACS Applied Materials & Interfaces is truly a global enterprise. The journal is publishing high-quality papers submitted by authors from every corner of the globe; a recent survey shows that authors from 72 different countries have contributed to the journal. The Editorial Advisory Board and Associate Editors are also diverse groups, with representatives from almost every continent. During the past year we are very pleased to have added five new Associate Editors to the editorial team: Dr. Kui Yu, Research Council Canada; Dr. Yiyang Wu, Ohio State University; Dr. Alben Ivanisevic, North Carolina State University; Dr. Ashutosh Sharma, Indian Institute of Technology–Kanpur; and Dr. Stanislaus Wong, State University Stony Brook and Brookhaven National Laboratory. These scientists bring a new and broad perspective to the journal editorial team and I look forward to working with them in the coming years as the journal continues to grow and develop.

ACS Applied Materials & Interfaces editors work hard to ensure that the journal publishes the highest-quality papers, at the same time maintaining a focus on applications-oriented research, which is the cornerstone of the scope of the journal. We wish to emphasize to the *ACS Applied Materials & Interfaces* community that the journal's scope is intended to be limited to "...papers that integrate knowledge in the areas of materials science, engineering, bio-related sciences, and chemistry into important applications." It is this focus on the interrelationship between materials synthesis/properties and important applications that sets *ACS Applied Materials & Interfaces* apart. Although many outstanding papers have been published in the journal during the past 5 years, here we take the opportunity to highlight examples that in our view exemplify the applications focus of the journal. These papers provide excellent examples of new materials and interfacial systems that enable new and exciting applications.

Katagiri, K.; Takabatake, R.; Inumaru, K. Robust Infrared-Shielding Coating Films Prepared Using Perhydropolysilazane and Hydrophobized Indium Tin Oxide Nanoparticles with Tuned Surface Plasmon Resonance. *ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces* **2013**, *5*, 10240–10245; DOI: 10.1021/am403011t.

Gupta, A.; Bowden, N. B. Separation of *cis*-Fatty Acids from Saturated and *trans*-Fatty Acids by Nanoporous Polycyclopentadiene Membranes. *ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces* **2013**, *5*, 924–933; DOI: 10.1021/am3025867.

Li, L.; Breedveld, V.; Hess, D. W. Design and Fabrication of Superamphiphobic Paper Surfaces. *ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces* **2013**, *5*, 5381–5386; DOI: 10.1021/am401436m.

Lin, K.; Xia, L.; Gan, J.; Zhang, Z.; Chen, H.; Jiang, X.; Chang, J. Tailoring the Nanostructured Surfaces of Hydroxyapatite Bioceramics to Promote Protein Adsorption, Osteoblast Growth, and Osteogenic Differentiation. *ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces* **2013**, *5*, 8008–8017; DOI: 10.1021/am402089w.

Lei, Z.; Shi, F.; Lu, Li. Incorporation of MnO₂-Coated Carbon Nanotubes between Graphene Sheets as Supercapacitor Electrode. *ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces*, **2012**, *4*, 1058–1064 DOI: 10.1021/am2016848.

During the past 5 years *ACS Applied Materials & Interfaces* has also published a number of sets of high-quality, applications-focused papers in topical Forums, which are collected together on a special page on the journal website: <http://pubs.acs.org/page/aamick/forums/index.html>.

Herewith, we bring attention to some important changes in formatting and editorial processes that are being initiated this year. First, beginning this year, *ACS Applied Materials & Interfaces* will consider only submitted papers in which the bibliographic listing includes the article titles along with the citation information. We believe the change will benefit the reviewers, editors, and authors, leading to a streamlined review process.

In addition to the change in bibliography format, going forward, the *ACS Applied Materials & Interfaces* editors and reviewers will pay special attention to ensure that proper details are included in the experimental (or supporting information) sections with respect to materials/interfacial characterization, as well as device benchmarking and metrics.¹ The latter point is especially important, given the large number of papers that are being published in the area of materials/device performance, for example, in solar cells, transistors, memory, energy storage, and photocatalysis. We think it is important that authors disclose how many devices or batches of materials were tested in a study, and provide a proper statistical analysis of the data that are reported (i.e., standard deviation, median or average results, champion device performance, etc.). Importantly, the editors will not accept wording in abstract and titles that make claims such as "improved" or "enhanced performance" in the absence of proper metrics and benchmarking relative to accepted standards.

The editors of *ACS Applied Materials & Interfaces* sometimes decline papers based on an editorial review. It is important for authors to recognize that the most common reason for a negative decision is that the paper falls outside of the journal scope.^{2,3} To avoid this pitfall, authors are encouraged to carefully review the instructions to authors prior to submitting their paper, paying special attention to make sure it falls within the journal scope. As noted above, an important consideration for *ACS Applied Materials & Interfaces* is that the paper properly and adequately addresses the applications aspect of the journal scope. Another common reason for editors to decide not to publish a paper is that it merely reports new data or represents an incremental advance over previous work. Authors should

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make it clear in the paper's introduction and in the cover letter what specific advance is described, and how it is significant in the field of applied materials and interfaces. Finally, a frequent pitfall is that a submitted paper is not carefully and thoughtfully formatted. Authors should always ensure that graphics and images are carefully and properly formatted, including clear and accurate captions. The bibliography should be properly formatted according to journal guidelines, which now includes the titles of the publications (see above). We note that there are several excellent sources of information as to how to write and format an excellent manuscript and we encourage authors to make use of these sources when preparing their papers for submission.^{4–6} A paper that is clearly and properly formatted always makes a stronger impact on the reviewers and the editors, and such papers will ultimately have stronger impact in the field.

We eagerly anticipate another year with ACS *Applied Materials & Interfaces* and encourage you to support us by following the journal and contributing your best work. Join us on Twitter @ACS_AMI.

Kirk S. Schanze, Editor-in-Chief

University of Florida

Jonathan J. Mallett, Managing Editor

ACS Publications

■ AUTHOR INFORMATION

Notes

Views expressed in this editorial are those of the author and not necessarily the views of the ACS.

■ REFERENCES

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