

Editor's LETTER

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Heard Through the Grapevine

Scientists are constantly juggling multiple tasks. There always seems to be papers to write and review, meetings to attend, and bench work to perform or guide. Dealing with these responsibilities while keeping on top of recent research findings in broad areas is always a balancing act. Fortunately, the Internet age has spawned a whole new generation of media outlets that allow us to keep pace with the current onslaught of information.

Podcasts, which are syndicated audio shows that can be downloaded and played on computers and portable audio devices, are an excellent way to remain current with news and events when on the go. They offer the power of the spoken word along with a delivery platform to complement that of traditional publications. And because listeners can skip, pause, and repeat segments at their own leisure, podcasts fulfill essential requirements of an "on-demand" world.

The American Chemical Society (ACS) provides a staggering number of podcasts, published on a regular basis, each geared for interested members of the public, reporters, or specialists. *Science Elements* offers a weekly digest of noteworthy research from the world of chemistry. *Bytewise Science* explains major concepts for a general audience in a neat two-minute package and is especially helpful as a teaching tool for grade-school students. And *Global Challenges* highlights how scientists are tackling the major health and environmental issues of our time through the use of chemistry. All three series of podcasts can be accessed from the "Press Room" link from the ACS portal, along with traditional subscriber venues such as iTunes.

The ACS also provides information on events of interest to members. *Chemical & Engineering News* recently posted podcast coverage of speakers at the Analytical Pavilion of the ACS Fall National Meeting & Exhibition.

At *ACS Chemical Biology*, we record a podcast every month and release it online simultaneously with the web edition of the journal (1). We have designed these podcasts with the busy researcher in mind, providing key highlights of the content in each issue and interviews with the scientists behind these papers. It has been an insightful experience to record these because we have the pleasure of speaking to the enthusiastic authors behind the work, putting a voice and a personality to the scientific research that we publish. We hope you enjoy listening to them as much as we enjoy recording them.

In addition to *ACS Chemical Biology*, a number of other ACS journals offer regular podcasts for a growing band of loyal listeners, including *ACS Applied Materials & Interfaces*, *ACS Nano*, *Analytical Chemistry*, *Environmental Science & Technology*, and *Journal of Proteome Research*. Recently, *JACS* launched its own series of podcasts featuring editorials, research highlights, and the new rotating cover images at the *JACS Beta* Web site. Now that is change that we can believe in!

With all of these podcasts at the ACS, and likewise with the *ACS Chemical Biology* podcast, our goal has been to entertain and engage you. Let us know how we're doing and please keep tuning in!

Anirban Mahapatra
Assistant Managing Editor, *ACS Chemical Biology*

REFERENCE

1. ACS Chemical Biology Podcasts [cited Feb 9, 2009]. Available from <http://community.acs.org/ChemBiol/Podcasts/2009/tabid/122/Default.aspx>.