

# The Last Issue of Our Inaugural Year: Reflections and a View to the Future

Let me open by thanking all the authors and contributors to *ACS Chemical Neuroscience* in our first year. The content and quality of the articles, letters, reviews, and viewpoints have been exceptional—some truly amazing neuroscience has been published. Submissions in all the major areas the journal hopes to cover are increasing, and international submissions are similarly on the rise. In addition, we witnessed a nice balance of manuscripts from both academia and industry in 2010. Indexing in PubMed is on the horizon—a frequently asked question—and one that just requires time for a new journal. Rest assured, all is proceeding as quickly as possible. Ani, Jennifer, Tara, and all the staff at ACS have done a phenomenal job aiding both myself and the associate editors as well as in promoting the journal at dozens of meetings and conferences. There is a phenomenal team behind this journal—thank you all—the ACS team and the Associate Editors, Arthur and Allan.

Serving as Editor-in-Chief for *ACS Chemical Neuroscience* is amazing—I love this job—I love having my finger on the pulse of emerging neuroscience—I read every submission. What a phenomenal year 2010 proved to be and how very challenging. As most of you know, our 18 month old daughter Paige was diagnosed with stage II neuroblastoma in September, and this CNS disorder was the subject of the last editorial (1). I and my family were overwhelmed by the support and outpouring of concern generated by that piece—though that was not the intention. At the time I wrote the editorial, it was therapeutic for me, and I wanted to bring attention to a rare and neglected disease that is a CNS disorder that matures into a malignant cancer (2). Moreover, significantly more research and attention needs to be directed at neuroblastoma and other diseases of the sympathetic nervous system. The standard of care has changed little in the past 25 years. *I am happy to report that Paige is cancer free!* We enrolled her in a clinical trial where she received only two rounds of chemotherapy (versus the standard four). During the two cycles, there were problems—ER trips for fevers, vancomycin infusions for possible PICC line infections, and as anticipated, though hard to witness, Paige lost all of her hair by the end. However, CT scans demonstrated more than a 50% reduction in the volume of the tumor, which allowed for a full surgical resection, with clean margins. Paige was back on her feet within two days of surgery. However, the Horner's Syndrome (3), which initially clued us in to the tumor, is more pronounced.

Sympathetic nerves were cut during the resection, so we will have to wait and see if the symptoms diminish over time as the inflammation subsides and nerves regenerate. Our family's battle with cancer was fortunately very short; however, during the ordeal, we met many families whose children are fighting prolonged, losing battles. Despite the prognosis, the children are so strong and positive—truly inspiring, yet heartbreaking.

Now, *ACS Chemical Neuroscience* in 2011—where are we going? To begin with, I am happy to announce that Dr. Corey Hopkins (research professor of pharmacology at Vanderbilt University Medical Center and associate director of medicinal chemistry for the Vanderbilt Program in Drug Discovery) will be joining the editorial team of *ACS Chemical Neuroscience* in the role of Managing Editor in January. A regular contributor of Chemical Spotlight features and author, in his new role Corey will work with me to solicit reviews and manuscripts and ensure a presence for the journal at all relevant neuroscience meetings. As always, we are both happy to receive proposals for Chemical Spotlights, Viewpoints, and Reviews—keep them coming.

The first issue of 2011 is an all-review issue focused on the chemical senses, and composed by thought leaders in the field—guaranteed to be a good and informative read. Moving forward, all issues will feature a review article, chemical spotlight, viewpoint(s), letters, and full articles. There are plans for thematic issues—at least two in 2011—more on that next month. Also in 2011 is a new feature: “Reflections and a View to the Future” wherein thought leaders across all areas of neuroscience have agreed to write a three page essay describing the state of neuroscience early in their careers, their perspective on the current state of neuroscience, and their views on where the field will move in the future. I am really excited about this new feature and the willingness of over 40 leading neuroscientists to contribute. 2011 is shaping up to be a great year for *ACS Chemical Neuroscience*—thanks again to everyone for making the journal's launch successful. *ACS Chemical Neuroscience* is filling a niche and linking synthetic chemists with neuroscientists to create a new community of chemical neuroscientists to tackle translational research problems—join us.

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## References

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3. Walton, K. A., and Buono, L. M. (2003) Horner syndrome. *Curr. Opin. Ophthalmol.* *14*, 357–363.