

Editorial

Journal of Combinatorial Chemistry: Our Next Millennium

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As we look back on the *Journal of Combinatorial Chemistry* (JCC) during the last millennium, I think we can be extraordinarily proud of what we have achieved. To become established as a scientific field, experiments must be reproducible in many laboratories. In 1998, there was a danger that the combinatorial chemistry (CC) literature would not enable this activity; of course, the result would have been an inevitable diminution of respect for the field by the scientific community. By setting standards for what constitutes publishable work in CC, and especially by proving via your publications that CC research can meet such standards, we have set the slope upward. Somewhat to my surprise, I very seldom am told that the bar should be lowered. Instead, I often hear that JCC's publication standards provide strong motivation for practitioners to make libraries as if the homogeneity and established identity of library members mattered; it does, as does proving those facts with the same burden of proof required for any synthesized compound. I thank you for stepping up to the plate.

In the next millennium, JCC will serve as a publication vehicle for increasingly broad applications. One already sees substantial efforts in catalyst discovery, materials discovery, and sensor discovery, all of which have a home in this Journal. Given an almost infinite number of carbon-based scaffolds, the invention of new and useful routes to organics has hardly even begun. What new applications will we see? Frankly, any application in which the discovery of new substances brings value. We can all revel in the opportunity to participate in the discovery of this New World.

Anthony W. Czarnik

Editor

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