

Welcome to ACS Macro Letters

Welcome to the inaugural issue of *ACS Macro Letters*! We have had a very busy start since we opened for business and began to accept manuscripts in August 2011. A hearty thank you to all of the authors and reviewers who have taken the time to help launch this new journal, and we look forward to its continued growth. One question that we are often asked is, “Why a new journal?” The answer to that is multifold. Polymer science has never been more intellectually vibrant, nor more essential to technological progress. Whether it is sustainable plastics, biomedical materials, renewable energy, or abundant clean water, polymers have a key role to play, and as such we believe that the time is ripe for a journal dedicated to the polymer community that focuses on publishing high-impact research results in a rapid format. *ACS Macro Letters* will report major advances in all areas of contemporary soft matter science in which macromolecules play a key role, including nanotechnology, self-assembly, supramolecular chemistry, biomaterials, energy generation and storage, and renewable/sustainable materials. The journal will include high-impact research of broad interest in all areas of polymer science and engineering, including cross-disciplinary research that interfaces with polymer science. This is the vision for *ACS Macro Letters*, and our goal is to have the time from submission to web publication to be in the range of 4 to 6 weeks—the fastest in the field of polymer science. Furthermore, we will feature what is called “ASAP pagination”, which means that the page numbers for your manuscript will be available as soon as it is published on the web, thereby getting the full citation to the authors as soon as possible.

Another frequently asked question is, “How will this new journal interface with *Macromolecules*?” The simple answer is that the two journals will work together to provide researchers the best venues for publication of leading polymer research. The Editors of the two journals will work together to help achieve this, and both journals will share the same Editorial Advisory Board. As you may have noticed, *Macromolecules* no longer accepts Communications, and will now focus on publishing Articles, Perspectives, and Notes. *ACS Macro Letters* will publish two types of manuscripts, Letters (communications) and Viewpoints, which are “mini-reviews” specifically designed to allow authors to give their views on an important area of polymer research. Viewpoints can take a number of different approaches, and we have two in this first issue. The first¹ is entitled “Functional Graphene: Top-Down Chemistry of the π -Surface” written by Timothy Swager, which offers the author’s views and opinions on a recently growing area in the field, in this case advances in graphene functionalization. Another type of Viewpoint article is one that takes a recent paper published in *ACS Macro Letters* and highlights its place in, and potential impact on, the field. Brent Sumerlin² has written such a Viewpoint entitled “Proteins as Initiators of Controlled Radical Polymerization: Grafting-from via ATRP and RAFT”. This essay highlights work³ published in this first issue by

Krzysztof Matyjaszewski and coworkers that reports the development of atom transfer radical polymerization (ATRP) methods in water-based media to allow the growth of polymers from proteins under biologically relevant conditions. We also hope that as you read this inaugural issue you will see that it covers a wide range of topics important in polymer science, ranging from new developments in polymer catalysis, stimuli-responsive materials, biomaterials, polymer morphology, opto-electronic materials, self-assembly, nanoconfinement, and polymer theory, to name just a few.

Last, but definitely not least, we are delighted to introduce you to the first two *ACS Macro Letters* Associate Editors. We are very happy that both Professor Theresa Reineke, of the University of Minnesota, and Professor Christoph Weder, of the University of Fribourg, Switzerland, have agreed to take on this role.



Photo of Dr. Weder published with permission from Marie-Sabine Jaccard, Adolphe Merkle Institute. Photo credit for Dr. Reineke: Virginia Tech/Jim Stroup.

Theresa Reineke was recently named the Lloyd H. Reyerson Professor of Chemistry at the University of Minnesota. Prior to accepting this position, she was an Assistant Professor of Chemistry at the University of Cincinnati and an Associate Professor of Chemistry at Virginia Tech. She has developed an outstanding international reputation for her pioneering work in the design, synthesis, and implementation of novel polymer systems for the delivery of nucleic acids, drugs, and imaging agents. Her work has been recognized with many honors, including the NIH Director’s New Innovator Award (2009), the Camille Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar Award (2008), an Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellowship (2007), a Beckman Young Investigator Award (2005), an NSF CAREER Award (2005), and the Arthur K. Doolittle Award from the ACS Division of Polymeric Materials: Science and Engineering (2003). Theresa received her B.S. in Chemistry and Physics from the University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire. Her Ph.D. thesis, under the direction of Professor Omar M. Yaghi at the University of Michigan, concerned metal–organic frameworks. It was during her NIH postdoctoral fellowship with Professor Mark E. Davis at CalTech that she first became interested in gene delivery, which subsequently became the launching pad for her independent research career.

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Christoph Weder is a Professor of Polymer Chemistry and Materials at the Adolphe Merkle Institute of the University of Fribourg (Switzerland), and also serves as the Director of this recently established center for fundamental and applied research on soft nanomaterials. Chris was educated at ETH Zürich (Switzerland), where he received his academic degrees in chemistry and higher education, and in 1994 earned a doctorate degree in polymer science under the guidance of Professor Ueli Suter. After a postdoctoral fellowship at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology with Professor Mark S. Wrighton and another five year appointment at ETH where he completed his “Habilitation”, Chris joined the Department of Macromolecular Science and Engineering at Case Western Reserve University, where he rose through the ranks and was eventually endowed with the F. Alex Nason Professor of Engineering. In 2009 Chris moved his laboratory to the University of Fribourg to set up a new institute. Chris’s main research interests are the design, synthesis, and investigation of structure–property relationships and exploitation of novel functional polymer systems, in particular advanced materials with unusual optic or mechanical properties, stimuli-responsive polymers, biomimetic materials, and polymer nanocomposites. He is the recipient of a 3M Non-Tenured Faculty Award, the DuPont Young Professor Award, and an NSF Special Creativity Award.

Please join us in welcoming the new team of *ACS Macro Letters*, and we seek your support, as authors, reviewers, and readers, in the success of this journal. We look forward to *ACS Macro Letters* serving the scientific community as the highest quality platform for rapid communication in the field of polymer science.

Timothy P. Lodge (Editor-in-Chief)

Stuart J. Rowan (Deputy Editor)

■ REFERENCES

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- (2) Sumerlin, B. *ACS Macro Letters* **2012**, *1*, 141–145.
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