

ACS Macro Letters Onward and Upward!

Happy 2014 from all of us at *ACS Macro Letters*. Well, it has been a busy second year and there is much to update you on. Before we go on, let us first thank all the authors and reviewers for their hard work and participation in helping in the continued success of the journal. Manuscript submissions to the journal are up to the extent that in July of 2013 we were able to add an additional Associate Editor, Ryan C. Hayward from the University of Massachusetts Amherst (more on him later), bringing us to a total of six expert editors handling your manuscripts. Furthermore, the average processing time has dropped, reinforcing *ACS Macro Letters* as the fastest outlet for publishing polymer-based research. For example, in 2013 (not including December) the average time from submission to first decision is less than 20 days and the average time to publication on the web (with page numbers) is less than 8 weeks!

One of the essential elements in allowing fast turnaround times is our community of reviewers. It is probably worthwhile here to emphasize the key points both the editors and the reviewers are asked to evaluate when reviewing a manuscript. While *ACS Macro Letters* holds to the same high scientific standard that *Macromolecules* and *Biomacromolecules* do, there are additional factors that go into the consideration of our manuscripts. The first is space; we are limited to about 2500 words and 6 display items (figures/schemes/tables). The shorter manuscript format allows the author to focus on the important new aspects of the work and aids in the speed of processing. The second key aspect is urgency, namely is there sufficient conceptual advance described in the manuscript to warrant immediate publication, rather than waiting for a more complete study and a full paper. These two additional criteria mean that *ACS Macro Letters* is necessarily more selective than *Macromolecules* and *Biomacromolecules*. As such, it is important for an author to make sure that in addition to solid innovative science the urgency criteria needs to be addressed in both the cover letter and manuscript. Any manuscript that does not address this issue will be returned to the authors after editorial review. Furthermore, with the goal of making sure prompt decisions are made on a manuscript (and to reduce the work load of our reviewers), if it is judged unlikely to survive the reviewing process, it will also be returned to the authors after editorial review.

One big change that happened this year in the *ACS Macro Letters/Biomacromolecules/Macromolecules* family is that, like *Macromolecules*, *Biomacromolecules* is now no longer publishing communications; hence *ACS Macro Letters* is now the sole ACS polymer journal to publish high impact letters/communications in all areas of polymer science, including the biopolymer- and biomedical-related fields. Continuing with the ACS polymer family theme, the celebration for the inaugural “*Biomacromolecules/Macromolecules* Young Investigator Award” was held at the ACS Fall National meeting in Indianapolis. This award is a partnership between the ACS Division of Polymer Chemistry (POLY) and ACS polymer journals to honor the contributions of two individuals, early in their careers, who have made a major impact on the field of polymer science. This year the

winners were Profs. Raffaele Mezzenga and David M. Lynn. Prof. Mezzenga of ETH Zurich received the award in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the fundamental understanding of self-assembly processes in polymers and biological colloidal systems, and Prof. Lynn of the University of Wisconsin—Madison in recognition of his exceptional contributions to the design and synthesis of polymers and materials of biotechnological and biomedical significance. Both of them are great ambassadors for the polymer community and are well deserving of the award; congratulations to them both! The Call for Nominations for the 2014 award is available at http://pubs.acs.org/page/polymer_nominations_2014.html, and applications will be accepted until January 10, 2014. We look forward to receiving your nominations!



Last, but definitely not the least, we are delighted to introduce you to our fourth *ACS Macro Letters* Associate Editor, Ryan C. Hayward, who joined the team in the middle of 2013. Ryan is currently an Associate Professor of Polymer Science and Engineering at the University of Massachusetts—Amherst. He received a B.S.E in Chemical Engineering in 1999 from Princeton University, where he conducted research with William Graessley on solution state properties of polymers and with Dudley Saville and Ilhan Aksay on electrophoretic assembly of colloids. At the University of California, Santa Barbara, he worked with Edward Kramer and Bradley Chmelka on block copolymer templating of inorganic materials and received his Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering in 2004. From 2004 to 2005 he worked with David Weitz in Engineering and Applied Sciences at Harvard University as a postdoctoral fellow studying microfluidic emulsion processing. His group studies a variety of topics in polymers and soft materials, with a particular focus on thin films and interfaces. Recent areas of interest include swelling-induced deformation of constrained and micropatterned stimuli-responsive gels, and solution state self-assembly of polymer and particle-based nanostructures. Ryan has received several awards, including the Presidential Early

Received: December 15, 2013

Accepted: December 16, 2013

Published: January 21, 2014

Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE), the 2011 ACS Division of Colloid and Surface Chemistry Unilever Award, the 2013 Journal of Polymer Science Innovation Award, and the 2014 John H. Dillon Medal of the American Physical Society.

Finally, 2014 is an important year for us as we continue to serve the scientific community as the highest quality platform for rapid communication in the field of polymer science, so to keep up with new events as they happen, follow us on Twitter @ACSMacroLett. In addition, we also regularly produce podcasts, <http://pubs.acs.org/page/amlccd/audio/index.html>, jointly with *Biomacromolecules* and *Macromolecules*. Join us every month to listen to interviews and discussions with our authors on the pioneering work published in the ACS polymer journals.

Timothy P. Lodge, Editor

Stuart J. Rowan, Deputy Editor

■ AUTHOR INFORMATION

Notes

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