

Feedback

Feedback has many forms and many meanings. At the global and national scales, we can see feedback mechanisms being examined and hopefully driven to repair the economy, the environment, and other pressing current issues. At our much smaller scales, feedback mechanisms that straddle electronic, optical, mechanical, and other domains have enabled the extraordinary views of the nanoscale that have guided advances throughout the field. Chemical control and interactions are used to apply these ideas to synthesis and assembly with surprising effectiveness. In developing our journal and our nanoscience community, we depend on your feedback to guide us.

In many cases, nanoscale feedback mechanisms can be sufficiently understood that they can be readily applied in relatively simple systems. In this issue, a number of papers elegantly exploit this concept in synthesis and assembly in producing remarkable materials diversity and structures (including those by Halas and co-workers shown on the cover).^{1–9} One gets the sense that we have only begun to modify the inputs in these systems. Several papers discuss how far this approach can be taken and how such materials can be applied.^{1–4} We are far from the end of the road and will no doubt see both increasing materials complexity and precision.

As biological networks become better understood, these too will be co-opted, modified, and driven to produce materials¹⁰ or to generate desired responses. This is another area where we have just gotten a glimpse of what is to come and where feedback mechanisms from many biological networks will play roles.

One of the most important feedback mechanisms for a journal is the referee process. As noted previously, our referees have been extremely gracious and giving of both their time and their wisdom. That has made all the difference, and we thank you. In terms of managing and improving *ACS Nano*, we have also been delighted at the substantial and substantive feedback that we regularly receive from you, both positive and negative. Each month, the editors convene in order to assess the articles that appeared and to determine how they fit into the larger scope of the journal. We find that some of you do the same, and we look forward to your comments about each issue, article, Perspective, Focus, or Conversation. Please send such comments directly to me at editor@nano.psu.edu. All comments are shared with the other editors while retaining your anonymity (unless you specify otherwise). Both our discussions and your comments are indeed acted upon in modifying our handling and selection of manuscripts. On a regular but less frequent basis, we ask our Editorial Advisory Board members, all of whom have substantial experience with top journals, to assess how we are doing and to suggest opportunities for the future. These inputs have all been extremely valuable in terms of feedback, and we urge you to continue.

NB—If you are reading this issue at the Spring 2009 ACS meeting in Salt Lake City, please stop by one of the many nanoscience events to say hello and to share your input in person!

As we were going to press, we were delighted to learn that *ACS Nano* was honored with this year's prestigious Association of American Publishers Award for Professional and Scholarly Excellence (PROSE) for the best new journal in science, technology, and medicine. It was a particular honor to receive the award from the President and CEO of the Association of American Publishers, The Honorable Pat Schroeder, who served 12 terms in the U.S. Congress, and has been a strong voice for First-Amendment rights. For our successful



IMAGE COURTESY OF TESI KARASANYI

Dr. Penelope Lewis (center), Managing Editor of *ACS Nano*, and Dr. Sarah Tegen (right), Assistant Director of Editorial Development, accept the PROSE award for the best new journal in science, technology and medicine from The Honorable Pat Schroeder (left), President and CEO of the Association of American Publishers, at the awards ceremony in Washington, DC.

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start, we would like to thank the editors and staff, the American Chemical Society, our advisors both formal and informal (as noted above), and you in the nanoscience and nanotechnology community.



Paul S. Weiss
Editor-in-Chief

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