Virtual Issue on Nanotoxicology

We would like to welcome you to the first virtual issue of *ACS Nano* for which Associate Editor Wolfgang Parak has assembled an exciting mix of articles related to the topic of nanotoxicology. First of all, let us introduce you to the concept of a virtual issue. Many journals assemble issues on specific topics, including publishing special issues or extended conference proceedings. Such special issues contain new manuscripts that have been written specifically for the special issue. However, we feel that it is important to avoid the situation of forced contributions to a special issue in a given time frame and the resulting delay in publishing manuscripts from other topics in nanoscience. At *ACS Nano*, therefore, we have opted to create a series of virtual issues collecting key papers on interesting forefront topics.

A virtual issue is a thoughtful selection of thematically related articles recently published in *ACS Nano* that are assembled and made available on our Web site. All articles presented have undergone strict peer review without time constraints or submission deadlines. We feel that assembling articles in this way ensures the high quality that readers have come to expect from *ACS Nano*.

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One might question the value of a virtual issue because, with the exception of the Editorial and Perspective, all content has already been published. Our answer is this: Although all these articles were previously published in *ACS Nano*, in the virtual issue, they are brought to a common focus and put in perspective. A reader interested in a specific topic will thus be able to access the most novel and influential articles that we have published. Each virtual issue will provide interested readers a comprehensive overview of one field.

Our first virtual issue is dedicated to the topic of nanotoxicology, a field that has been gaining importance because, as the use of products containing nanoparticulate materials becomes more widespread, safety concerns must be considered. Although there are specialized journals devoted to nanotoxicology, as well as journals about toxicology in general, at *ACS Nano*, we look at nanotoxicology from the "nano" perspective. We are particularly interested in toxicological issues related to characteristic properties of nanomaterials that can be correlated with adverse outcomes following exposure. In addition, we seek to acknowledge efforts to improve the safety of nanomaterials through experimental protocols that minimize toxicity. Some of the latest developments can be found in this virtual issue about nanotoxicology, in addition to a Perspective that provides the outlook for the field and the challenges that lie ahead.

Enjoy free access to the articles in this nanotoxicology virtual issue through the end of 2010 from ACS Publications (and subsequently through your institutional or personal subscriptions). We hope that you will enjoy reading this and upcoming virtual issues from *ACS Nano*.

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