

How Many Nano Journals Does the World Need?

It is well-recognized that the field of nanoscience and nanotechnology is extremely active, crossing the boundaries of many traditional disciplines and steadily growing worldwide. The field requires platforms (actually, many platforms) to communicate and to disseminate the vast amount of accumulating knowledge, but how many nano journals does the community actually need? A quick scan of the Journal Citation Reports (JCR) for the subject category "Nanoscience and Nanotechnology" for the year 2011 gives us a total listing of 66 journals, 39 with "Nano" in their titles. There has been dynamic growth in this subject category since 2007, which was *ACS Nano*'s inaugural year: from 47 journals listed in 2007, to 52 in 2008, to 59 in 2009, to 64 in 2010, and 66 in 2011. This 40% cumulative increase is due in part to the fact that several traditional journals from the multidisciplinary materials science fields, such as *Advanced Materials*, entered the JCR "Nanoscience and Nanotechnology" subject category in 2009. Indeed, these journals have published a great deal of research on nanoscale structures and are well-recognized by authors and readers. At the same time, several successful new publication venues with clearly articulated "nano" components in their titles were established in the 2007–2009 period and have already become well-recognized.

I took the liberty of compiling a selection of 10 journals from those occupying the top 20 places in the JCR subject category "Nanoscience and Nanotechnology" (2011) using one metric, impact factor, and tracked the same statistics for the journals going back to 2007. It may be instructive to look at these statistics to try to identify a few trends. The journals listed here are mostly from well-established publishing houses with track records in traditional scientific areas. Their journal impact factors grew steadily over the past five years, even though there are some fluctuations in single instances. It appears that the positioning within the top five (*Nature Nanotechnology*, *Nano Today*, *Nano Letters*, *ACS Nano*, *Small*) has changed little, so far. At the same time, there are quite a few successful newcomers like *Nanoscale* of the Royal Society of Chemistry and *Nano Research* of Tsinghua University Press who have entered or are about to enter the top 10. Some more established journals have seen growth but have not kept up with upstart competitors entering the category. There are quite a number of journals covering aspects of nanomedicine (exemplified by *Nanomedicine* and *Nanotoxicology*), which enjoy high standing worldwide while catering to more specialized (and applied), though nonetheless growing, readerships.

It appears that the nanoscience community does need and can accommodate quite a number of high-quality publication platforms, which can coexist, be sustained, and flourish. These top journals have overlapping audiences but also each has special reach out in distinct areas of chemistry, physics, engineering, medicine, etc. It is our job as editors, together with our reviewers and authors, to ensure that *ACS Nano* continues to publish the highest quality research in this field to serve our broad and highly interdisciplinary community. Laying out the future challenges and opportunities, and reaching out to the communities beyond practitioners, for example, to clinicians, regulators, the public, and others, is particularly important to us. We work hard to ensure that *ACS Nano* stays at the forefront. Forward-looking submissions or proposals and suggestions for topics that we might cover are especially welcome at *ACS Nano*.



Andrey Rogach
Associate Editor

Disclosure: Views expressed in this editorial are those of the author and not necessarily the views of the ACS.

Published online November 27, 2012
10.1021/nn3051727

© 2012 American Chemical Society