

AIChE Journal: More Diverse and Timely

This issue of *AIChE Journal* marks several important innovations. For the first time in its four decades of operation, the *Journal* has expanded from a single editor to a team comprising associate editors. Our aim is to provide more expert judgment and decision-making on submitted manuscripts while maintaining rapid, knowledgeable review. This move has also been driven by the steady increase in the number and diversity of submissions, which now averages about 20%, or 100 manuscripts per year, above the 1992 level.

This change, however, should be invisible to readers and authors of the *Journal*, since all submissions and communications concerning the status of manuscripts will continue to be handled by the Minnesota Editorial Office. We feel that this centralized processing and communication procedure will streamline the operation.

The diverse expertise of the editorial team will help maintain the *Journal's* standing as the highest quality monthly that covers a wide spectrum of interests to fundamental chemical engineering research. Chemical engineering continues to be the only engineering discipline where the entire literature of the field is accepted in single journals for the whole profession. The *Journal's* impact on our field might appropriately be compared to that of *Science* or *Nature* on science as a whole. We intend to aim ourselves increasingly toward subjects of exceptionally broad scope and deep significance to chemical engineering. Material of narrow scope and incremental significance belongs in more specialized journals.

The quality of a journal is directly related to the conscientious efforts of authors and referees. We understand that thorough refereeing is very time-consuming, and referees may have to decline review requests at times. Essential to reviewing an article is that the referee be firm and clear in expressing an opinion and the rationale for it. We do not ask them to be the final judges of whether or not an article should be published; that is our job. We do, however, ask that referees explain to us as fully as possible the nature of the accomplishment described. *Correctness is necessary, but not by itself an adequate reason for the Journal to publish a piece of work.*

This issue, with 300 pages, represents a significant expansion in the number of pages. After careful consideration (see the January 1994 editorial), we decided to publish at least 25% more pages in 1995 than in 1994. Manuscript submissions to the *Journal* have been growing considerably, but we have not allowed this to influence the rejection rate. Doing otherwise would result in withholding useful and interesting information from our readership and the research community. We intend to keep the *Journal* quality standard high, at the current acceptance rate of below 45%. We feel that it may not serve our research community well to go far below this acceptance rate. Therefore, this increased size will continue for a few months of this year and throughout 1996 as part of our continuous effort to bring you a first-rate research journal in a very timely manner.

Look for other changes in coming months including electronic submission of materials and, hopefully, electronic availability of the *Journal* itself. Though we have not yet developed a full implementation plan, it is our intention to accept manuscripts on disks using T_EX program. For the authors who wish to use this option on a trial basis, we are ready to receive and process manuscripts in that way. In the future, additional word processing systems may also be used for submissions.

The principal goal of the *Journal* is to uphold its reputation as *the* publication that brings you the entire span of the most important developments in chemical engineering research. Since we can only publish articles that we receive, we look forward to receiving your best.

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