

EDITORIAL

Accounts of Chemical Research began publishing in January 1968 with Professor Joseph F. Bunnett as its founding editor. Volume 1, issue 1, contained four concise reviews authored by chemistry giants William S. Johnson ("Nonenzymic biogenetic-like olefinic cyclizations"), Mostafa El-Sayed ("Triplet state. Its radiative and nonradiative properties"), Roald Hoffman and R. B. Woodward ("Conservation of orbital symmetry"), and Theodore L. Brown ("Nuclear magnetic resonance studies of organometallic exchange processes"). These *Accounts* summarized recent findings of cutting-edge research in chemistry of the time, allowing a broad audience of readers to rapidly grasp the advances in the field. Professor Fred W. McLafferty served as editor from 1986 to 1994 and maintained this tradition of excellence, publishing highly cited articles that fueled special topics courses at universities and informed researchers worldwide on recent advances.

For the past 19 years, *Accounts* has thrived under the leadership of Professor Joan Selverstone Valentine as she shepherded the journal into the 21st century of electronic publishing. Throughout, the journal has grown worldwide in readership, in reputation, and in pages: over 3000 pages were published in 2013, about 10-fold the number of Volume 1. Unlike other review content journals, *Accounts* offers summaries of the current state of the art in a topical area of chemistry or biochemistry, often veering toward edgy topics at the interface of chemistry with other disciplines. Special issues provide a multifaceted view of a broader topic and attract the top researchers in the field as authors. As Co-Guest Editor (with Professor David Lynn) of a special issue in 2012 on *Origins of Chemical Evolution*, I appreciated the intense efforts that went into defining the topic, selecting the authors, and convincing members of 22 busy research groups to participate as authors. Supporting all this was an expert team of editors, science writers, and artists in addition to the outstanding publications team in Columbus, Ohio, and the editorial support and marketing teams in Washington, DC.

As I look forward to 2014 and beyond, the style of *Accounts* will remain much the same: we seek concise articles on a focused topic presented as a "seminar-in-print". The text should focus on very recent research from the

author's own laboratory but set it in the context of other work in the field. *Accounts* are written in such a way as to be accessible to a general audience of chemists, and they often form the reading list of graduate coursework. Enhancements to *Accounts* in the near term will include additional web features that highlight content and make it more accessible, alliances with other journals, and mechanisms to create discussions about "hot topics" in molecular sciences.

Accounts of "Chemical" Research has always defined its scope well beyond the narrow boundaries of Chemistry by encompassing Biochemistry, Materials Science, Pharmaceutical Chemistry, and any area in which molecular structure and function play an important role in original research. I am delighted to join with the dream team of Senior Editors, Professors Jinwoo Cheon (Yonsei University), Cynthia Friend (Harvard), and Ken Houk (UCLA), in congratulating Joan Valentine on 19 spectacular years of editing *Accounts* and to follow in her tradition of excellence for this unique journal. Although most articles are invited, we welcome proposals for new *Accounts*, which may be accompanied by cover art and sent to eic@acr.acs.org.

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

Cynthia J. Burrows
Editor