

## Changes Afoot!

*Accounts of Chemical Research* is evolving to meet the ever-changing landscape of research in molecular sciences and the challenges of scientific publishing in our fast-paced world. By the end of 2014, all of the statistics were up: article usage, article citations, manuscript submissions, and articles published. With an impact factor of 24.3, *Accounts* is a popular venue for publication of concise reports on focused topics in which the authors are world experts and is the “go-to” journal for readers wanting to be broadly educated about the current research frontiers in chemistry and related sciences. Several efforts are underway to adapt to the changing needs of both authors and readers.

### ■ SPECIAL ISSUES ARE BECOMING MORE FLEXIBLE IN TIME AND SPACE

The January 2015 issue, on the topic of “2D Nanomaterials Beyond Graphene”, was the last of our traditional special issues in which all invited papers were collected together in a single month’s issue. Following that, we begin our new format in which articles accepted for a special issue will appear when ready in one of our regular monthly issues, while at the same time, the collection will build online on the journal’s Web site. The ramifications of this new process are many: the first authors to submit need not wait for the last authors in order to see their paper published with page numbers; papers will not wait as long in ASAP; special issues may now be more flexible in the number of articles comprising them—some topics are broad while others are tightly focused; and we will be able to accommodate more special topics in any given year. Modifications to this flow of manuscripts are made possible by a dedicated team of scientific editors, copy editors, and web editors. Check out the special issue on Protein Motion in Catalysis that is now under construction. We hope you like the new venue for special issues!

### ■ TWO WAYS TO SUBMIT: PROPOSALS AND INVITATIONS

The majority of our manuscripts arrive after the recommendation of editors, guest editors, or editorial advisory board members results in an author invitation, either for an individual submission or for a contribution to a special issue. Due to the growing number of unsolicited submissions, we are transitioning to a proposal system for the convenience of both authors and editors. Like our sister journal *Chemical Reviews*, we plan to prescreen potential manuscripts by asking for a relatively short proposal with key references to be submitted to the Paragon Plus web submission site. After editorial review, possibly with the assistance of editorial advisory board members or other experts, we will give potential authors feedback that may result in an invitation to submit a full manuscript. Key features of a successful proposal would be as follows:

- A short (~400-word) description of the focused topic, remembering that an *Account* is not a comprehensive review nor a mini-review, but rather a concise summary and analysis of a topic in which the author is an expert.

Ideally, this description might be a draft of the *Conspectus* and be accompanied by one or two graphics.

- A list of about 5–10 notable papers that might form the foundation of the final manuscript. Typically these are ones from the author(s)’ own laboratory, but others may be included.
- Notes about recent reviews on this topic written by the submitting authors or others, and how the proposed *Account* would differ in focus.
- Any additional information that addresses the questions: Why this topic? Why now? Why these authors?

**Editors, editors, editors** are a critical component to the success of a journal, and I am both sad and happy to announce transitions. Senior Editor Ken Houk will be stepping down at the end of March to give more time to his research group of ~40 students and postdoctoral researchers at UCLA. Ken has handled hundreds of manuscripts in his decade of service, ranging from theory and physical organic chemistry to organic synthesis and enzymology. Having collaborated with seemingly every lab in the world, he has been a magnet for outstanding authors. We hope to benefit from his continued sage advice as he transitions to the Editorial Advisory Board. Stepping up to the plate is Scott Miller, Irénée du Pont Professor and Chair of Chemistry at Yale University, whose research is focused on complex molecule synthesis and the development of new catalysts for selective functionalization of natural products. We welcome his expertise in organic synthesis and chemical biology.

We look forward to the continuing evolution of *Accounts* as your forum for scholarly updates of research frontiers in the molecular sciences.

*Thanks for reading!*

Cynthia Burrows, Editor  
University of Utah

### ■ AUTHOR INFORMATION Notes

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

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