

# Biochemistry

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## EDITORIAL

The publishing of scientific journals is in the throes of revolution as the use of electronic media expands. In the case of *BIOCHEMISTRY*, we have utilized both CD ROM and on-line technology. During this past year, the World Wide Web (WWW) has been used for distribution, and in 1997, subscriptions will be available on the WWW. As you are aware, the on-line version of the Journal has significant advantages, for example, the search capabilities and access to multiple years. The reproduction of figures has improved significantly as the industry struggles with the balance between quality of resolution and the time for downloading. However, we have not yet taken full advantage of the unique capabilities of the Internet. This year we will add the features of linking references directly to Medline abstracts and linking directly to sequencing and structural data bases. We also plan to provide instructions for linking the structural data directly to software that will permit viewing of protein structures in various formats. These features should be available no later than July 1, 1997. Finally, we will publish animated videos as Supporting Information. Interested authors should consult with me directly about this possibility. Suggestions from readers for other additions we might make to the on-line version of the Journal would be greatly appreciated.

The use of the hyperlinks described above will not be without trauma as we must, with great reluctance, change the referencing system that has been used in *BIOCHEMISTRY* since its inception. In order to provide hyperlinking services, references will have to be numbered in the text and in the reference list at the end of the article. Details are given in the Instructions to Authors. The new system will go into effect immediately, but we will accept papers submitted in both the new and old format until July 1, 1997, after which only the new format will be accepted.

The number of manuscripts submitted to *BIOCHEMISTRY* continues to increase, and we anticipate approximately a 5% increase in 1996 when the final tabulations are made. The Editors continue to try to focus the Journal on significant biochemical problems, particularly as related to the structure/function/mechanism of biological molecules. We would like to expand our coverage of genetic mechanisms and membrane biochemistry as they become more structural and molecular based.

From a production standpoint, we are instituting procedures to reduce further the time required for manuscript processing. The slow step is the review process, and the transit time is not insignificant. Submission of reviews will be available through the WWW Home Page of *BIOCHEMISTRY*, and the reviews can be transmitted directly to the Editor. If electronic or fax reviews are used, manuscripts need not be returned. Unfortunately, many fax reviews are barely legible so the use of electronic media is strongly encouraged. In addition, we will increase our use of express mail services. The longest delay in the review process is still the time necessary for the review. We realize the great time pressures on reviewers, and we are grateful for the many excellent and timely reviews that are received. Clearly the success of the Journal is entirely dependent on these efforts. To speed up the production time after submission, we will require all manuscripts to be submitted on disk. Currently about 90% of manuscripts are submitted on disk. If this requirement causes undue hardship, exceptions can be arranged through the Editor.

Many thanks to our authors, reviewers, and readers for their support. Please feel free to send any suggestions you may have for improvements directly to me.

Gordon G. Hammes

*Editor*

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