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*ChemMedChem*, European in origin but international in scope, deals with all aspects of drug discovery. It is co-owned by a group of European chemical societies and is published by Wiley-VCH. Contributions in *ChemMedChem* cover medicinal and pharmaceutical sciences, drug design, drug development and delivery, molecular modeling, combinatorial chemistry, target validation, lead generation, and ADMET studies, that is, research from the overlapping areas between biology, chemistry, and medicine. *ChemMedChem* publishes Communications and Full Papers, as well as Reviews, Minireviews, Highlights, Concepts, Essays, Book Reviews, and occasionally Conference Reports. Authors can submit manuscripts to *ChemMedChem* online through our homepage (see left) by clicking on "Online Submission" and following the simple instructions.

Some articles in this issue have already appeared online in Wiley InterScience. See [www.chemmedchem.org](http://www.chemmedchem.org) under EarlyView®

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## EDITORIAL

# Increasing Attention

### Making Headlines

#### Fighting Cancer

The research reported in *ChemMedChem* is getting the attention of the press. Colin Self, Stephen Thompson, and colleagues at the University of Newcastle (UK) developed a method for controlling when and where T-cells are active against tumor cells. This is done by neutralizing monoclonal antibodies with a coating of photocleavable groups. Localized exposure to UVA light un-cages the antibodies, which then activate T-cell activity against tumor cells. The findings are a significant step toward the treatment of cancer and were the focus of media attention in late October. Details of their work can be found in their two back-to-back Communications in the November issue of *ChemMedChem* (pages 1587 and 1591).

#### Treating Diabetes

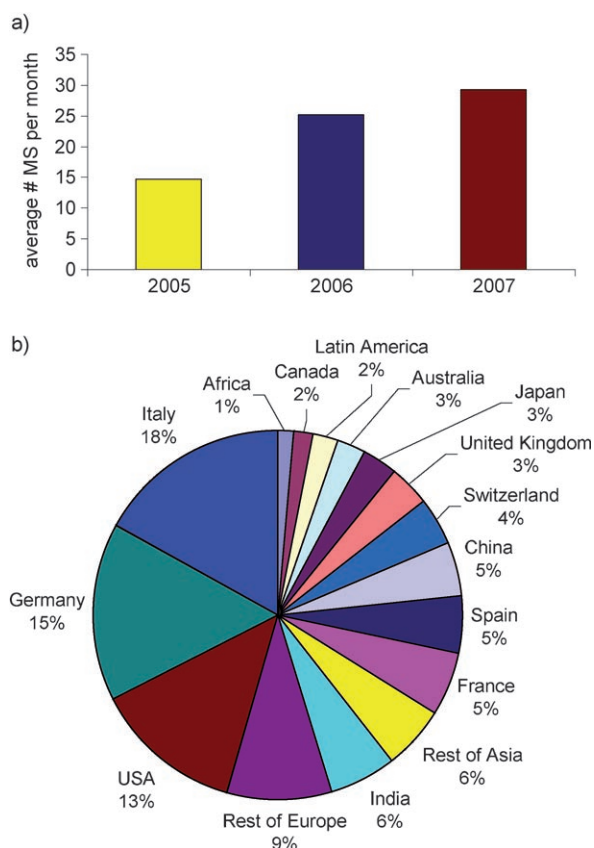
Also receiving press coverage last autumn were Timothy Fairchild, Robert Doyle, and co-workers at Syracuse University (USA), who found a way to deliver insulin orally, thus circum-

venting a persistent problem in diabetes research for years: insulin breakdown in the gastrointestinal tract. By conjugating insulin to vitamin B<sub>12</sub>, Doyle's group was able to demonstrate effective insulin delivery through the B<sub>12</sub> uptake pathway. This development has the potential to greatly ease the burden of insulin administration by injection. Their Communication appeared in the December issue (page 1717).

### Continued Growth

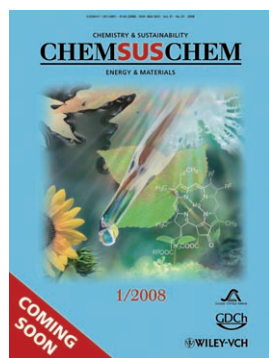
After two years in publication, *ChemMedChem* continues to receive an ever-increasing number of manuscript submissions (Figure 1 a), reflecting the expanding awareness and popularity of the journal. As has been the case from the beginning, Italy, Germany, and the USA remain the top three manuscript sources (Figure 1 b); submissions from the rest of Europe, Asia, the Americas, and Oceania are on the rise, however, which is evidence of *ChemMedChem*'s growing global scope.

Internal growth at Wiley-VCH has also continued, and a fourth journal has been added to the *ChemPhysChem*, *ChemBioChem*, *ChemMedChem* family that addresses the important



**Figure 1.** a) Manuscript submissions from September 2005 to September 2007. b) Origin of manuscripts submitted to *ChemMedChem* over the same two-year span.

and rapidly growing field of sustainable (*green*) chemistry: *ChemSusChem*. We wish *ChemSusChem* the same degree of success *ChemMedChem* has had in its first couple of years!



## The Nobel Prize

The most prominent member of our journal family, *Angewandte Chemie*, was proud to publish the Nobel Lectures of both the winners of the 2006 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine: Andrew Z. Fire (Stanford University, USA) and Craig C. Mello (University of Massachusetts, USA). These Lau-

reares were honored for their work in gene silencing through RNA interference (RNAi), and their fascinating stories can be read in last year's October 1st issue.

The 2007 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine was awarded to Mario R. Capecchi (University of Utah, USA), Sir Martin J. Evans (Cardiff University, UK), and Oliver Smithies (University of North Carolina, USA) for their work in elucidating how specific gene modifications can be introduced in mice by using embryonic stem cells. Their research led to 'knockout' mouse strains, in which specific genes are removed. Some  $10^4$  knockout

strains have been generated to date, underscoring the important role this breakthrough has played in making correlations between genes and disease states. Congratulations to these outstanding scientists for their pioneering work that will continue to have huge impacts at all levels of medical research, from the chemistry lab to the clinic.

## High Performance

Our system of peer review, which directly involves members of the Editorial Board, has continued to prove successful. Our manuscript rejection rate over the past two years has remained stable, just under 50%. In last year's Editorial, we had expressed our intent to maintain or even decrease the time required for peer review, and, thanks to the collective effort of all those who referee manuscripts for *ChemMedChem*, we've pulled it off. The average decision time for all manuscript types is now around 20 days (see Table 1). Naturally, it is important to maintain careful balance between the courtesy of informing authors of their manuscript's acceptance in a timely manner on the one hand, and on the other, allowing the referees sufficient time to conduct a thorough peer review. Doing so requires work, but as the journal's momentum gathers, the structure and management of the peer-review process at *ChemMedChem* continues to show its merits.

**Table 1.** Average time span between manuscript submission and initial editorial decision.

Article type	t [days]
Reviews and Minireviews	25
Highlights and Concepts	14
Communications	17
Full Papers	18

## Conferences

We had the pleasure of attending several excellent meetings last year, including the Joint German–Swiss Meeting on Medicinal Chemistry in Berlin (March), the 41st European Symposium on Bio-Organic Chemistry at Gregynog in Wales (May), the Austrian–German–Hungarian–Italian–Polish–Slovenian 5th Joint Meeting on Medicinal Chemistry (JMMC) 2007 in Portoroz (June), Rencontres International de Chimie Thérapeutique 2007 in Lille (July), and the Frontiers in CNS and Oncology Medicinal Chemistry meeting in Siena (October). Each conference was a great opportunity to talk in person with a handful of our readers, authors, and referees. We look forward to seeing familiar faces again, as well as meeting more of you at various medicinal chemistry meetings in the year ahead, especially at the XXth International Symposium on Medicinal Chemistry in Vienna (<http://www.ismc2008.org>).

Table 2. The top 10 <i>ChemMedChem</i> manuscript downloads for 2007. <sup>[a]</sup>				
Authors	Title	Type <sup>[b]</sup>	Reference	DOI <sup>[c]</sup>
E. Jacoby et al.	<i>The 7TM G-Protein-Coupled Receptor Target Family</i>	R	1(8), 760	10.1002/cmdc.200600134
F. Diederich, M. Kansy, K. Müller, et al.	<i>Predicting and Tuning Physicochemical Properties in Lead Optimization: Amine Basicities</i>	R	2(8), 1100	10.1002/cmdc.200700059
S. V. Ley et al.	<i>Pharmaceutical Strategy and Innovation: An Academics Perspective</i>	E	2(6), 768	10.1002/cmdc.200700008
M. N. Romanelli et al.	<i>Central Nicotinic Receptors: Structure, Function, Ligands, and Therapeutic Potential</i>	R	2(6), 746	10.1002/cmdc.200600207
S. M. Cohen et al.	<i>The Design of Inhibitors for Medicinally Relevant Metalloproteins</i>	R	2(2), 152	10.1002/cmdc.200600204
D. Neri et al.	<i>Ligand-Based Vascular Targeting of Disease</i>	R	2(1), 2	10.1002/cmdc.200600181
S. Hanessian	<i>Structure-Based Organic Synthesis of Drug Prototypes: A Personal Odyssey</i>	R	1(12), 1300	10.1002/cmdc.200600203
S. A. Laufer and S. Margutti	<i>Are MAP Kinases Drug Targets? Yes, but Difficult Ones</i>	R	2(8), 1116	10.1002/cmdc.200600271
A. Delgado et al.	<i>Chemical Tools to Investigate Sphingolipid Metabolism and Functions</i>	R	2(5), 580	10.1002/cmdc.200600195
K.-H. Altmann, K. C. Nicolaou, et al.	<i>The Chemistry and Biology of Epothilones—The Wheel Keeps Turning</i>	R	2(4), 396	10.1002/cmdc.200600206

[a] January–October 2007. [b] E = Essay, R = Review. [c] Manuscripts can be located easily by DOI number at dx.doi.org.

## Special Issues

Two special issues of *ChemMedChem* are scheduled this year. One is dedicated to drug development for parasitic diseases and draws on some of the research presented at the February 2007 meeting on Medicinal Chemistry in Parasitology, held in Modena, Italy. This special issue will focus on a particularly important aspect of medicinal chemistry research, as parasite-borne disease, by its sheer prevalence, is the most daunting problem facing public health at the global level.

The second special issue will concentrate on research presented at JMMC 2007 held in Portoroz, Slovenia from June 17th–21st. Topics will range from medicinal chemistry research into the treatment of gastroesophageal reflux disease and neurodegenerative disorders, to mass spectrometry of metalloproteins. We're excited to see these two, and, of course, the other ten issues of *ChemMedChem* Volume 3 appear as the year progresses.

## Thanks

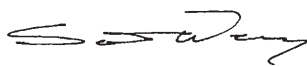
The top three *ChemMedChem* article downloads in 2007 were *The 7TM G-Protein-Coupled Receptor Target Family* (a Review by

E. Jacoby et al.), *Predicting and Tuning Physicochemical Properties in Lead Optimization: Amine Basicities* (a Review by F. Diederich, M. Kansy, K. Müller, et al.), and *Pharmaceutical Strategy and Innovation: An Academics Perspective* (an Essay by S. V. Ley et al.). These are just three of the best examples of the power of collaboration between successful scientists and a good journal, and we are pleased to have helped enable the high exposure of these excellent contributions.

Indeed, the wide range of topics heavily sought by our readership is evident in the 10 most downloaded articles between January and October 2007, listed in Table 2. The high quality of these, and indeed all articles published in *ChemMedChem*, are the result, of course, of the hard work initially invested by the authors. The quality is ensured, and in some cases even improved, by the dedicated experts who generously volunteer their time to conduct peer review for us. Therefore, our heartfelt thanks go out again to all the referees who have been so generous with their time to help give this journal its solid content. Finally, thanks to the growing number of *ChemMedChem* readers, who are always encouraged to become *ChemMedChem* authors as well.



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