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Most of the articles in this issue have already appeared online in Wiley InterScience. See www.chemmedchem.org under EarlyView®

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EDITORIAL

A Journal with Impact

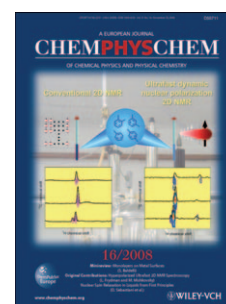
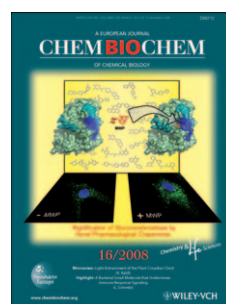
The Upward Trend Continues

As *ChemMedChem* starts its fourth volume, some of its sister journals are celebrating landmark anniversaries: *Chemistry—A European Journal* kicks off Volume 15 this year and it's going weekly! 2009 marks Volume 10 for both *ChemBioChem* and *ChemPhysChem*; both journals start their 10th volume with attractive jubilee issues featuring outstanding original contributions, review articles, and editorial commentaries from members of the editorial board. Additionally, both jubilee issues will feature essential review articles from high-profile members of the scientific community.

Like its older siblings, *ChemMedChem* is also experiencing continued success and growth, and we're pleased with how well this young journal has been received by the medicinal chemistry community. The number of manuscripts submitted to *ChemMedChem* continues to rise steadily (Figure 1a). The countries from which a significant share of our manuscripts originate remain Italy, Germany, and the US; the first two reflect the journal's founding member societies: the Italian Chemical Society (SCI) and the German Chemical Society (GDCh). As Figure 1b shows, however, research groups from other regions are making up

an increasingly greater percentage of the manuscripts we receive. Although *ChemMedChem* is European in origin, with 14 current member chemical societies as co-owners (ChemPubSoc Europe), we hope and expect this trend will continue over the years, with an ever-increasing number of papers that originate in Asia, Africa, and the Americas.

Although the number of pages we print for a given volume has increased slightly each year, this increase does not accommodate the rise in the number of manuscripts received. As a result, we have to be ever more selective in what we publish; our current rejection rate is around 55% and rising steadily. An efficient and thorough peer-review process is the core of



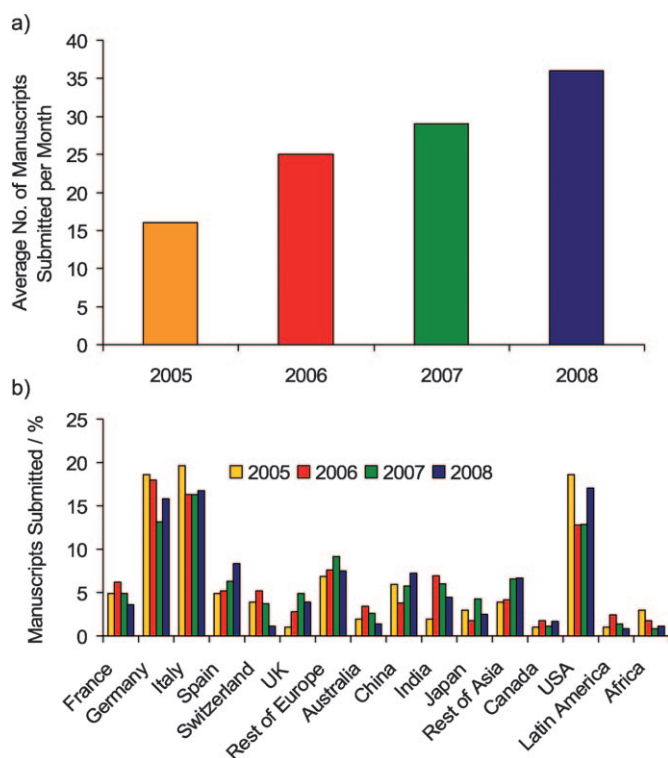


Figure 1. a) Manuscript submissions from 2005 to 2008; the 2005 average was calculated for the July–December period, and the 2008 average was determined from January to October of that year. b) Origin of manuscripts submitted to *ChemMedChem* over the same time span; the country of origin is based on corresponding author address.

ChemMedChem, and we are grateful to our referees, all of whom have been most generous with their time in helping us maintain our high publishing standards. Therefore, thanks go to them and our authors for contributing to *ChemMedChem*'s impressive first impact factor of 2.825. Notably, this initial figure is based on a single citation year; the upcoming 2008 value will certainly be higher, as it will be based on the standard two-year citation period.

We've managed to maintain high quality while keeping publication times to a minimum. Currently the average time taken to reach a decision after submission of a manuscript (Communication, Full Paper, Review, or Minireview) is just under three weeks. It takes an average of 19 days for a given article to be published online after the authors submit the final accepted version; this includes an average of eight days taken for authors to return their galley proofs. This kind of efficiency can be attributed, in no small part, to our new associate editor, Dr. Natalia Ortúzar, whose strong background in medicinal chemistry research is an invaluable asset to the editorial team.

Kudos

As is the case with any peer-reviewed scientific journal, *ChemMedChem*'s primary mission is to serve as a forum for sharing important discoveries. As the bulk of its pages are written and read by medicinal chemists, we always welcome feedback and suggestions from the research community. Chemistry conferen-

ces and meetings are particularly conducive to getting such feedback, and this is one of the many important reasons those of us in the editorial office attend as many such gatherings as possible throughout the year.

The XXth International Symposium on Medicinal Chemistry in Vienna last August and September was a particular highlight in this regard. *ChemMedChem* also had the privilege of sponsoring the poster awards for ISMC 2008, and again we congratulate the three winning presenters, Dr. Jörg Scheuermann (ETH Zürich, Switzerland), Dr. Sun Choi (Ewha Womans University, Seoul, South Korea), and Dr. Mario Alvarado (Instituto de Química Médica, Madrid, Spain) for their outstanding work. We wish them continued success in their respective pursuits, and hope to see ground-breaking results from their research efforts published in this journal in the near future.

In addition to hosting top-level speakers, hundreds of posters, and an impressive array of vendors, all in the setting of a beautiful city, ISMC 2008 also provided its attendees the opportunity to share their views on academic training in medicinal chemistry and the reality faced in industrial research settings. This was done through a discussion forum hosted by Professor Péter Mátyus (Semmelweis University, Hungary).

Special Issues

There is at least one special issue of *ChemMedChem* on the slate for this year, and contributions are currently being coordinated by Professor Livio Brasili (University of Modena, Italy), who organized the XIXth National Meeting on Medicinal Chemistry last September in Verona. Therefore, keep an eye out for an especially engaging collection of articles coming soon.

ChemMedChem published two special issues last year: Most of Issue 3 was dedicated to reviews and original work focused on drug discovery and development in parasitology, and was organized by Professor Maria Paola Costi (University of Modena, Italy) in a follow up to the Medicinal Chemistry in Parasitology meeting held earlier in Modena. She managed to coordinate submissions from many of the world's top medicinal chemists working on ways to combat parasitic infections, and the result was an impressive issue that covers a broad scope of work being done to address some of the world's most threatening neglected diseases.

On the heels of Issue 3 came another special issue; most of Issue 4 was authored by speakers from the 5th Joint Meeting on Medicinal Chemistry held in Portorož, Slovenia. Organized by Professor Danijel Kikelj (University of Ljubljana, Slovenia), this special issue brought together a wide variety of cutting-edge research results and insightful reviews. Our thanks go again to Professors Costi and Kikelj for contributing their time and effort in coordinating such interesting special issues that will have a lasting impact.

Top Ten

In taking a look back at *ChemMedChem* Volume 3, it is also interesting to see which topics have generated particular interest

Table 1. The top 10 *ChemMedChem* manuscript downloads for 2008.^[a]

| Authors | Title | Type ^[b] | Reference | DOI ^[c] |
|---------------------------------|---|---------------------|-----------|------------------------|
| A. D. Moorhouse and J. E. Moses | <i>Click Chemistry and Medicinal Chemistry: A Case of "Cyclo-Addiction"</i> | M | 3(5), 715 | 10.1002/cmdc.200700334 |
| F. Kratz et al. | <i>Prodrug Strategies in Anticancer Chemotherapy</i> | R | 3(1), 20 | 10.1002/cmdc.200700159 |
| R. P. Verma and C. Hansch | <i>Taxane Analogues against Breast Cancer: A Quantitative Structure–Activity Relationship Study</i> | F | 3(4), 642 | 10.1002/cmdc.200700278 |
| L.-Q. Gu et al. | <i>G-Quadruplexes: Targets in Anticancer Drug Design</i> | R | 3(5), 690 | 10.1002/cmdc.200700300 |
| S. M. Cohen et al. | <i>Zinc-Binding Groups Modulate Selective Inhibition of MMPs</i> | F | 3(5), 812 | 10.1002/cmdc.200700290 |
| M. Recanatini et al. | <i>Modeling hERG and its Interactions with Drugs: Recent Advances in Light of Current Potassium Channel Simulations</i> | M | 3(4), 523 | 10.1002/cmdc.200700264 |
| R. Brenk et al. | <i>Lessons Learnt from Assembling Screening Libraries for Drug Discovery for Neglected Diseases</i> | F | 3(3), 435 | 10.1002/cmdc.200700139 |
| B. Schmidt et al. | <i>Curcumin-Derived Pyrazoles and Isoxazoles: Swiss Army Knives or Blunt Tools for Alzheimer's Disease?</i> | F | 3(1), 165 | 10.1002/cmdc.200700218 |
| B. Beck, T. Clark, et al. | <i>A Composite Model for hERG Blockade</i> | F | 3(2), 254 | 10.1002/cmdc.200700221 |
| W. Tan et al. | <i>Molecular Recognition of Small-Cell Lung Cancer Cells Using Aptamers</i> | F | 3(6), 991 | 10.1002/cmdc.200800030 |

[a] January–October 2008. [b] M = Minireview, R = Review, F = Full Paper. [c] Manuscripts can be located easily by digital object identifier (DOI) number at <http://dx.doi.org>.

in our readership. One way to look at this is through the number of downloads a given article receives. Table 1 lists the top 10 downloaded *ChemMedChem* articles as determined internally through Wiley InterScience. It is apparent that cancer remains a prominent topic of widespread interest, as is also the case for neurological disorders. Not surprisingly, new ways to avoid hERG liability as early as possible in a drug development project also receive a good amount of attention, and it's encouraging to see increasing attention to research aimed at combating infectious and often neglected diseases.

On the Inside

ChemMedChem issue cover graphics are an artistic representation of one of the articles appearing in a given issue. Because of their popularity, we've decided to double the space allotted to such creativity: *inside* cover graphics will appear early this year. Soon, each issue will provide two research groups with the opportunity to highlight their results in this creative way, so keep an eye out for these, and remember that issue cover proposals (both inside and outside) are always welcome.

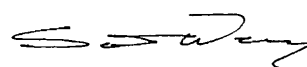
Be Part of Volume 4

If your research group is ready to report breakthrough results, aim high, and submit the manuscript to *ChemMedChem*. As always, we do our best to ensure efficient peer review followed by rapid but careful handling of accepted papers. If you

have a timely review topic in mind, please don't hesitate to send us your ideas and outlines. Volume 4 could be the platform to communicate the results of your hard work and ingenuity as a medicinal chemist. An upcoming issue this year might contain your landmark Review article that uniquely summarizes recent developments in your particular field and puts them into context with years, or even decades, of previous discoveries. We hope you find this issue (and issues to follow) of *ChemMedChem* interesting, informative, and inspiring, and we hope to hear from you.



Peter Göllitz, Editor



Scott D. Williams, Senior Associate Editor



Natalia Ortúzar, Associate Editor