

# ChemComm beats the opposition

Professor Andrew Holmes, Chairman of the ChemComm Editorial Board highlights the exceptional times to publication provided by ChemComm and explains why the services offered to ChemComm readers and authors beat the opposition

The start of a new year is a good time for projection and reflection. At this time last year your Editorial Board pledged to make *ChemComm* a "must read" item and we believe that we are achieving this.

The Royal Society of Chemistry offers services to authors that are second to none and *ChemComm* as the flagship journal of the Royal Society of Chemistry offers one of the best services to authors of any peer-reviewed journal. At every stage from submission to publication authors submitting their best work to *ChemComm* can expect to receive a first class, efficient service. The RSC's electronic submissions service [www.rsc.org/submissions](http://www.rsc.org/submissions) offers authors a convenient and fast way to submit their work. We encourage authors to submit their work as PDF files to expedite the peer-review process, but if this is not possible then PDFs can be created in-house as part of our editorial process. In the past year we have introduced a web-based review system, providing prompt reviews for our authors and a system for reviewers that does not fill the physical or electronic in-tray.

We recognise that our referees are one of the most essential parts of our editorial team, to ensure that the quality of the journal continues to be of a high standard and for authors to receive prompt reviews. In recent times, the number of submissions to peer-reviewed journals has increased and *ChemComm* as a high-profile, international journal has been no exception (Fig. 1). One of the results of this trend is that the workload for our reviewers has increased. The Editorial Board of *ChemComm* believes that the reviewers we rely on to guarantee the quality and timeliness of papers in *ChemComm* should be allowed to concentrate on important papers and as such have recommended that editorial procedures should be adapted to assist with this. Our services to authors do not stop once the peer-review process is complete. Our production department provide an exceptional service and in 2002 commenced electronic proof provision, another time saving benefit for our authors. We have also introduced reference linking, an excellent service for our readers and authors. For the first time RSC journals on the web include Cross-Ref Reference Linking. Facilities now include:

- free access to the Chemical Abstracts Service abstract for the reference via ChemPort
- links to the full text of the reference, where available online, on the publisher's server (a subscription or pay-per-view may be required to access the article)

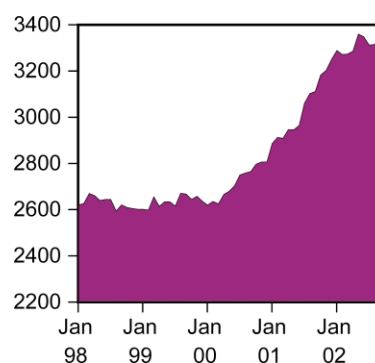


Fig. 1 Annual submissions to *ChemComm*

The publication of articles in full colour (free of charge for authors) with colour graphical abstracts and the constantly changing innovative cover designs supplied by our feature article authors have ensured that those readers preferring to read the journal in print format have certainly not been forgotten. New designs for our inside covers and contents lists have made the journal attractive and easy to read.

Our authors submit their work to a journal with one of the fastest times to publication in the field. Compared to competitor journals our publication times are extremely attractive. The figures included illustrate this. Fig. 2 shows time (in days) from receipt of a manuscript to publication

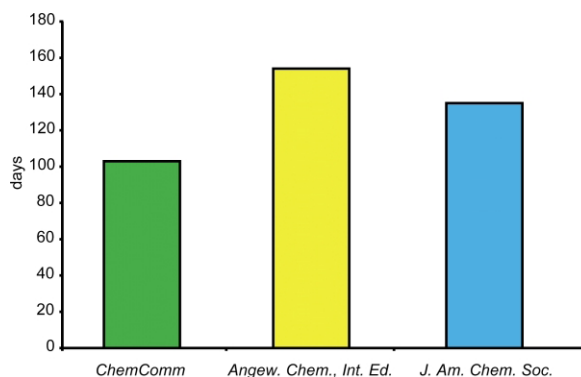
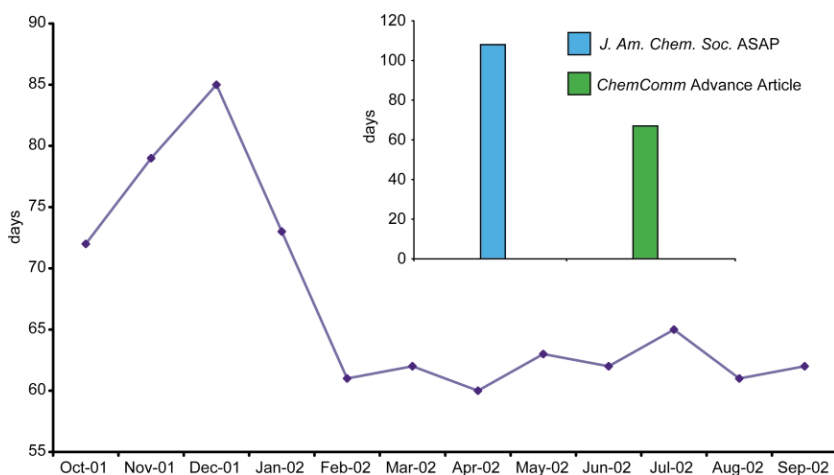


Fig. 2 The chart shows the mean time (in days) from receipt date to publication date in printed form (cover date) for communications, calculated over a series of issues (10–14 *ChemComm* and *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* and 20–29 *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*). All data were obtained from printed issues of the journal using the information supplied therein by the respective publisher.



**Fig. 3** Times to publication for Advance Articles. The graph illustrates the ever decreasing times to publication, now as low as 60 days. INSET shows the mean time (in days) from receipt date to date of publication on the web. For *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, Communications ASAP data is taken from issues 20–29 using the information supplied by the publisher. For *ChemComm* issues from an equivalent time period were used (10–14).

in *ChemComm* compared to the corresponding time taken to publish in competitor journals. From the data it can be seen that a manuscript submitted to *ChemComm* will on average appear in the printed journal over one month before *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, and fifty days before *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.*

*ChemComm* papers appear as Advance Articles on the web as soon as possible. The average time from receipt to publication on the web for *ChemComm* authors is just **67 days**; comparing this to the average **108 days** taken for *J.*

*Am. Chem. Soc.* communications it is clear that *ChemComm* must be the journal of choice for authors whose work requires rapid publication. In recent issues of *ChemComm* the average time from receipt to publication on the web as an Advance Article has decreased even further to approximately **60 days**. It should be noted that this rapid publication is not just a special service for ‘very important’ authors.

We have also included new features for our readers. 2002 saw the launch of a new and exciting section for *ChemComm* – Focus Articles. These short articles written by high-profile authors give a short, but authoritative view of a topical area of chemistry.

This issue focuses attention on a seminal paper in *ChemComm* by Alan Heeger, Alan MacDiarmid and Hideki Shirakawa that led to amazing technological innovation and ultimately

a Nobel prize for the authors.

The coming year sees some changes to the membership of the *ChemComm* Editorial Board and the *ChemComm* International Advisory Board. The *ChemComm* Editorial Board extends great thanks to Professor Tim Bugg for his contribution to *ChemComm* over the past three years, especially in raising the profile of chemical biology in the journal. We welcome Dr Shankar Balasubramanian who together with Scientific Editor Don Hilvert and

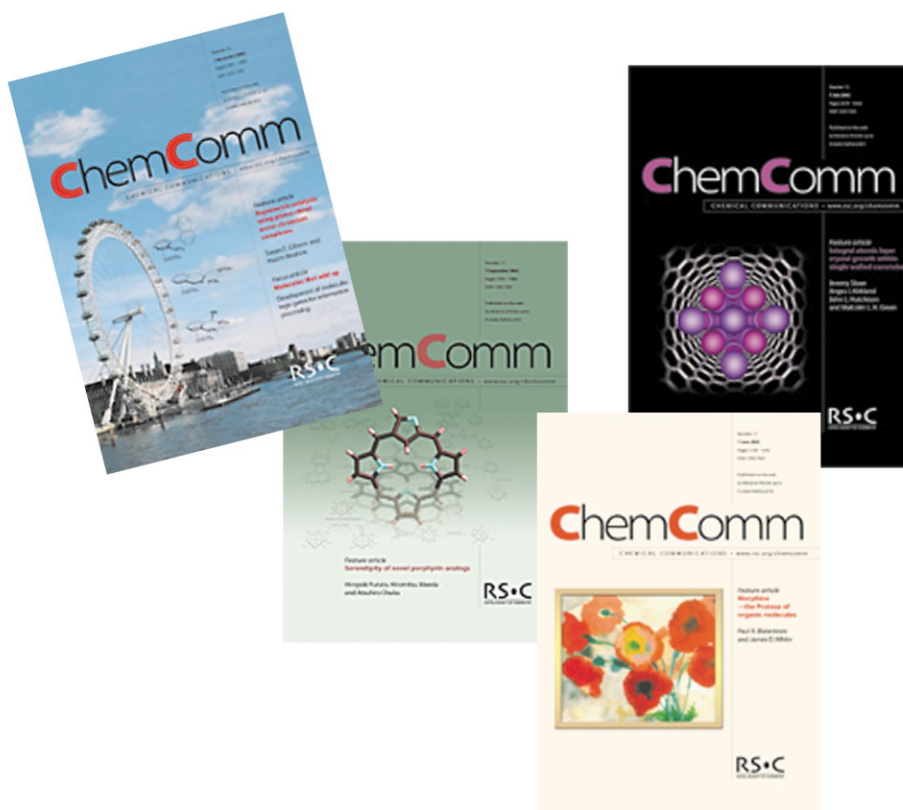
Associate Editor Professor Barbara Imperiali will continue to encourage the chemical biology community to publish in *ChemComm*. Further information and contact details of the *ChemComm* Editorial Board can be found in this issue. Details of new members of the International Advisory board can also be found in this issue and on our web-site [www.rsc.org/chemcomm](http://www.rsc.org/chemcomm). A full profile of the advisory board members will appear in future issues.

On behalf of the Editorial Board and the Royal Society of Chemistry editorial staff we wish you a Happy New Year!

Andrew Holmes  
Chairman  
*ChemComm* Editorial Board

Sarah Thomas  
Managing Editor  
*ChemComm*

Louise Gill  
Deputy Editor  
*ChemComm*



Some of the many covers from 2002.