
EDITORIAL

Dear chemosensory researchers; dear members of AChemS, ECRO, and JASTS; dear readers and authors of *Chemical Senses*; dear colleagues,

This is the first issue of *Chemical Senses* published after a new editorial structure has been established. Please let me take this opportunity to introduce myself as the Editor in Chief and the new team of Executive Editors and to explain to you the reasons for this change and the new editorial workflow.

First of all, it is important to note that *Chemical Senses* will remain what it was before, the publication organ of the 3 major chemosensory societies AChemS, ECRO, and JASTS. As such, the scope of the journal has not changed. It continues to publish papers of all kinds of chemosensory research and represents the field in its entirety. As you can see on the journals web pages, *Chemical Senses* publishes original research on all aspects of chemosensory biology, including taste, smell, vomeronasal, and trigeminal chemoreception in both vertebrates and invertebrates. Approaches can range from molecular to behavioral to ecological, and papers integrating multiple approaches are encouraged. Papers on the development of new methodology for investigating the chemical senses are welcomed but should include experimental evidence that validates the new technology. Papers on clinical and applied research are also welcomed but should have a fundamental concept in the chemical senses as their primary focus. *Chemical Senses* also publishes review articles in above areas.

As you may know, the previous editorial structure of *Chemical Senses* consisted of 5 Executive Editors who were appointed by representatives of the 3 major chemical societies AChemS, ECRO, and JASTS. Importantly, this structure gave each organization the opportunity to influence the direction of *Chemical Senses*, yet it was sometimes problematic for authors to select the most appropriate Executive Editor for their manuscript. Executive Editors then worked fairly independently of each other to manage the editorial process.

In recent years and still to date, we register major challenges for a journal's publishing success, including but not limited to open access online journals and the appearance of numerous new journals which compete with the existing ones for submissions and readers. Thus, it is more important than ever that journals have a clear direction and continue to adapt to the changing needs of their communities. In this respect, Oxford University Press, the publisher of *Chemical Senses*, has identified a hierarchy with a single individual acting as Editor in Chief who guides and coordinates the

editorial process as the most successful model, which is widely used in science.

As the result of a search conducted by representatives of the publisher, AChemS, ECRO, and JASTS, the new editorial structure is now being established. It consists of me as the Editor in Chief and 10 Executive Editors among whom luckily are all those who served *Chemical Senses* during the recent years. Thus, the combination of valuable experience with fresh ideas is expected to exert synergistic effects on the success of the journal. After an initial check by the Editorial Office, the Editor in Chief receives all incoming manuscripts. He checks them for being in the scope of the journal, suitability, and general quality. At this stage, poor manuscripts that do not meet the basic scientific standards will be returned to the authors and not sent out for review. It is fair that authors obtain quick decisions and that the editors' and reviewers' time and efforts are economically used. Based on the subject area of a paper, the Editor in Chief assigns an Executive Editor with the appropriate expertise for handling the peer review process. For this purpose, we have established the following team of Executive Editors: Keiko Abe (Tokyo; "nutrition, food related"), Paul Breslin (Philadelphia; "human psychophysics"), Alan Carleton (Geneva; "olfaction central"), Barry Keverne (Cambridge; "pheromone action"), Timothy McClintock (Lexington; "olfaction molecular" and "other models"), Yuzo Ninomiya (Fukuoka; "taste peripheral"), Alan Spector (Tallahassee; "animal behavior"), Alexander Steinbrecht (Seewiesen; "chemical senses of insects" and "other models"), Susan Travers (Columbus; "taste central"), and Kazushige Touhara (Tokyo; "olfaction molecular/cellular/peripheral"). I myself will handle manuscripts in the area of "taste molecular/cellular." The Executive Editors obtain the evaluation reports of manuscripts by selecting further experts as peer reviewers. Based on the incoming reviewer reports, they prepare the editorial decisions. In agreement with the Executive Editors, the Editor in Chief will then take the final decision on all submissions. The entire process may, of course, cycle for revisions.

This optimized workflow of handling manuscripts will shape acceptance criteria and create awareness of overall submission and acceptance trends. Together with the willingness of all involved individuals to speed up the process, this will result in a fast, rigorous, and, needless to say, always absolutely fair peer review process committed to the highest ethical standards. In this and in other ways, we will seek to increase the attraction of *Chemical Senses* for future authors, thereby raising submission rates, which in turn will enable

the journal to improve further in quality and to consolidate its leadership in the field of chemical senses.

Finally, I would like to conclude by saying that I am enthusiastic about the new position. It is a unique and challenging opportunity to serve the scientific community and to move chemosensory research forward. *Chemical Senses* is the leading journal in the field. It is the publication organ of roughly 2500 researchers organized in AChemS, ECRO, and JASTS. It is the publisher's and the editors' intention to rouse the interest of all these potential authors in submitting

their papers to *Chemical Senses*. In this sense, we would like to invite you strongly to share with us this enthusiasm and send us your best work for publication. In this way, you personally can contribute to the success of the journal and the importance of the field as much as the editorial team can.

Please do not hesitate to send me your thoughts and ideas. They will be well taken!

On behalf of the entire team,
Wolfgang Meyerhof