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Editorial

Chemistry of Materials Turns Twenty-One

2009 marks the 21st year of publication for *Chemistry of Materials*. 2008 was an exciting year for this journal, and we have every reason to believe that the upcoming year will be even better.

The 20th anniversary year was highlighted by a series of special events. In celebration of this important milestone, the ACS created a **20th Anniversary Web Site** (<http://pubs3.acs.org/journals/cmatex/promo/20th/index.html>). Here you can find lists of our most-cited articles and most-prolific authors, information on the growth of the journal, and links to the Editor's biography, Special Issues, and past Editorials. In February, we published a **Special Issue on Templated Materials**, our newest Editor, Ed Chandross, came aboard, and we started a new **Editorial-level screening program** for submitted manuscripts. At the ACS National Meeting in April, the Editor-in-Chief was recognized for his 20 years of service since the journal's inception, and 20th anniversary commemorative posters were distributed at the ACS Publications booth. In their mid-year release of citation data for 2007, Thompson Reuters again ranked *Chemistry of Materials* as the **#1 journal** out of the 190 categorized in **materials science**. Our 43,000+ citations in 2007 were more than 3000 above those of the nearest competitor, and our Impact Factor of 4.883 was the highest among journals publishing more than 800 papers. Finally, in November the ACS launched a **New Web delivery platform for all of the ACS Publications**, including *Chemistry of Materials*.

The February 2008 **Special Issue on Templated Materials** (<http://pubs.acs.org/toc/cmatex/20/3>) contained over 50 papers, including 23 Short Reviews on this hot topic. By the end of November, more than 120 citations to papers from this issue had already appeared, just 10 months after their publication. Of course, citations provide only one way to gauge the impact of a paper or a Special Issue. Another important measure is the number of downloads of articles from the journal Web site.

Among the top 20 recently published articles downloaded in 2008, 11 were from this Special Issue. We are grateful to Ferdi Schueth and Mietek Jaroniec for their efforts in making this Special Issue such a great success.

Templated Materials was seventh in a series of Special Issues that have appeared since the first one on Organic Solid State Materials was published in 1994. We are pleased to announce our next Special Issue on the **Materials Chemistry of Energy Conversion** (see the Call for Papers in this issue), which is planned for publication in early 2010. This Special Issue will provide a survey of the current topics and the major development lines in this rapidly growing research area, and it promises to be a landmark event in the evolution of this scientifically and technologically important area of materials chemistry.

In February 2008, we initiated a three-step **screening process** to determine if submitted manuscripts meet our requirements for publication. In this new process, two Editors read the manuscript and the associated cover letter to decide whether to send it on to an appropriate subject Editor for further evaluation and possible assignment to external reviewers. Our Editorial review criteria include: the appropriateness of the paper for this journal in terms of its focus on the "chemistry" of materials, the overall quality of the manuscript, and its adherence to our "significant advance" criterion. A "significant advance" implies that it should be of broad interest, not too specialized for a general materials chemistry audience, and make a substantial impact on the particular field of interest. As a result of this process, our overall receipt-to-publication time for accepted papers has actually decreased (to ca. 4 months) and our receipt-to-first decision (accept, revise, or reject) for the manuscripts that are sent to reviewers now averages 5.4 weeks.

When submitting a manuscript to *Chemistry of Materials* for the first time, please read carefully the "Information for Authors" and the "Scope and Editorial Policy (SEP)" document available

on our Paragon Plus manuscript submission Web site (<https://acs.manuscriptcentral.com/acs>). The following instructions should be noted in particular:

“Authors will be expected to include in the cover letter a summary of the main findings and a statement explaining why these findings represent a significant advance in the particular area of materials chemistry involved. This will facilitate the editorial prescreening of the manuscript to determine if it merits further consideration by outside reviewers. Papers that do not appear to meet the description of ‘forefront research’, which has been established as a key requirement for publication in this journal, will be rejected.”

Thus, it is important for authors to understand that submission of a manuscript will not result necessarily in it being sent to reviewers—and that this does not necessarily mean that the manuscript is judged to be of poor quality. Moreover, if you are resubmitting material that was previously rejected, please tell us that you are doing this and include a description of the major differences between the versions, as well as your reasons for thinking it will now meet our requirements. Finally, it should be clear to our reviewers that we are doing everything we can to use their precious time as efficiently as possible and, consequently, that we would greatly appreciate their serious consideration of our invitations to review the papers that we have judged to be potentially suitable for publication in this journal.

The American Chemical Society has launched a new journal called *ACS Applied Materials and Interfaces* (<http://pubs.acs.org/journal/aamick>). The introduction of this journal, “with its focus on applications, will enhance the portfolio of existing ACS publications focusing on fundamental materials science discovery, including *Chemistry of Materials*, *Langmuir*, *Biomacromolecules*, *Macromolecules*, and *The Journal of Physical Chemistry B and C*”. It is being launched with the goal of “becoming the international publication of choice for the interdisciplinary community of chemists, engineers, physicists, and biologists focusing on how newly-discovered materials and interfacial processes can be developed and used for specific applications”. We welcome the introduction of this new journal, which further expands the options for authors and readers of articles in materials science and engineering.

Included in our “Information for Authors” is a reminder of the ethical obligation of authors to “include relevant articles that are submitted or in press as Supporting Information for Review Only”. Despite this reminder, we continue to experience problems with authors who have submitted, at about the same time, closely related papers to *Chemistry of Materials* and to another journal without informing either Editor about the related paper. These infractions have been detected by Editors, reviewers, and/or readers with serious consequences for the offending authors, including suspension from publication in the journal for a period of one or more years. When in doubt about whether prior papers by the author or by others are relevant to the submitted paper, it is always advisable to inform the Editor about the paper in question and to include in the discussion of the findings a full and fair comparison with prior related work.

The majority of our readers who view this journal online, will have noticed the new *Chemistry of Materials* Web site that was introduced by the ACS in November as part of a complete restructuring of the ACS Publications web platform. This Web site includes a totally new delivery platform and software capabilities that provide a “state-of-the-art online experience for information discovery, interactivity and research productivity for scientists and professionals worldwide”, including: enhanced PDF and full-text HTML functionality, enriched Tables of Contents, advanced search interface, new home pages for all ACS journals, and an abstract-level display for ACS Legacy Archives. If you have not yet experienced this Web site, I heartily recommend that you do so; you will find it easy to navigate and a pleasure to use.

In our 21st year of publication we intend to continue our efforts to provide a forum for forefront research papers that focus on the “chemistry” of materials, and we look forward to the next 20 years of service to this community.

Many thanks to the *Chemistry of Materials* Editors and their staff, our Editorial Advisory Board members—past and present, our reviewers, and authors, whose service to this journal and to the materials chemistry community has made *Chemistry of Materials* the #1 cited journal in materials science.

Leonard V. Interrante

Editor-in-Chief

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