

2011 Celebrations and *Chemistry of Materials*

The year 2010 has been an exciting one, with a Special Issue edited by John Greedan, Peter Battle, Guest Editor Sossina Haile, and myself, entitled **The Materials Chemistry of Energy Conversion**, which provided review papers, articles and communications focused on the materials aspects of the conversion of energy from one form to another. This Special Issue (<http://pubs.acs.org/toc/cmtext/22/3>) highlights the central role of chemistry in generating materials to address the energy problems that are of great concern in today's society.

Our next Special Issue on **π -Functional Materials** is scheduled for publication in Issue 3 of this year, and a new one entitled **Materials for Biological Applications** is in the works with the Call for Papers appearing in this issue. We expect that this Special Issue will attract a wide spectrum of papers and will demonstrate the importance of collaborations between the materials chemistry and the biology communities. Special Issues have become a regular feature of *Chemistry of Materials* and highlight key areas that are at the forefront of current materials chemistry research. They provide an excellent vehicle for wide dissemination of topical reviews, and many of the top, all-time most cited *Chemistry of Materials* papers have been published in our Special Issues.

Due in part to its Special Issues, *Chemistry of Materials* continues to grow in both total citations and Impact Factor. Based on the 2009 Journal Citation Reports by Thomas Reuters, there were 57,387 citations to *Chemistry of Materials* papers, which is 12% higher than in 2008. The Impact Factor for 2009 increased to 5.368, the highest value ever for *Chemistry of Materials*. These are excellent indications that our journal is highly regarded by authors, reviewers, and readers.

We continue to provide rapid turn-around time for submitted papers with an average 3 months from receipt to acceptance, with 3.7 months for publication (ASAP) of Communications and 4.6 months for Articles. This relatively short receipt to publication time has continued despite the introduction of a new manuscript screening procedure in 2008, which involves a careful reading of all papers by two Editors prior to assignment to a subject Editor for a final review and possible external reviewer assignment. In this screening, a substantial fraction of submitted manuscripts are returned to authors for resubmission to a more appropriate journal, ensuring that only the best and most appropriate papers in materials CHEMISTRY are sent on for external review. Our commitment to quality and focus on the "Chemistry" of Materials will continue as a hallmark of this journal.

During the year, we have experimented with new ways to enhance the visibility of our published papers. For example, we participated in a multijournal virtual Special Issue on **Photovoltaics Materials**, published in May 2010 (<http://pubs.acs.org/page/vi/2010/photovoltaic.html>). *Chemistry of Materials* joined with *ACS Applied Materials & Interfaces*, *Langmuir*, and *Macromolecules* to showcase this area of research, bringing together the various contributions with emphasis on one topic. Free access to this virtual Special Issue is sponsored by Arizona State University LightWorks.

Looking forward to 2011, there are major celebrations for chemists. It is the 100th year anniversary of Marie Curie's Nobel Prize in Chemistry. Marie Curie was the first person to receive two Nobel Prizes, the first in Physics in 1903 and the second in 1911 in Chemistry for the discovery of radium and polonium, as well as the isolation and study of radium's properties. The year 2011 has also been designated by the United Nations as the International Year of Chemistry (IYC 2011) and is a worldwide celebration of the achievements of chemistry and its contributions to the well-being of humankind (<http://www.chemistry2011.org/about-iyf/introduction>). This year will also be the 100th anniversary of the founding of the International Association of Chemical Societies, providing a chance to highlight the benefits of international scientific collaboration. In August of this year, two of our Editors (Ed Chandross and Len Interrante) will be co-chairing, along with Prof. Carlos Cabrera of the University of Puerto Rico, a symposium entitled "Challenges for Materials Chemistry in the 21st Century" at the 2011 World Chemistry Congress in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The goal of this symposium is to illustrate the central role of worldwide materials chemistry R&D in solving key problems in human health and welfare (<http://www.chemistry2011.org/participate/activities/show?id=115>).

Reflecting on these celebrations, I note that 2 of the 12 Editors and 10 of the approximately 60 Editorial Advisory Board members are women. The 2010 Special Issue on the Materials Chemistry of Energy Conversion had 2 women in the group of 4 editors. The upcoming Special Issue for 2011 on **π -Functional Materials** is edited by Jean-Luc Bredas, Elsa Reichmanis, and Guest Editor Seth Marder, all at Georgia Tech (1 woman out of 3 editors). These numbers indicate that *Chemistry of Materials* is at the forefront in terms of gender inclusiveness.

The international nature of our journal is evident in the fact that, over the past decade, ca. 65–70% of our published papers have come from outside of the U.S., with over 60% from regions other than the Western Hemisphere. A strong international perspective has been apparent

in this journal from its inception, and our Editorial Advisory Board reflects this, with 21 out of approximately 60 members from outside the Western Hemisphere. We thank all of the departing and welcome the new Editorial Advisory Board members. Their service to the journal and the scientific community is highly valued and greatly appreciated.

The year 2011 will be equally exciting, and I look forward to the celebration of the International Year of

Chemistry, the increasing inclusion of women and the international community in materials chemistry, and the continued emphasis on the publication of forefront research in chemistry directed at the development and utilization of new materials.

Susan M. Kauzlarich
Editor