

## Chemistry of Materials—Your Journal for High Science in 2012

The International Year of Chemistry in 2011 was a big success, and it has impressively highlighted the importance of chemistry in many different fields and in countries all over the world. To name just one example of the worldwide activities emphasizing the contributions of materials chemistry, two of our editors, Editor-in-Chief Len Interrante and Ed Chandross, have—together with Carlos Cabrera—prepared and co-chaired a symposium on “Challenges for Materials Chemistry in the 21st Century” which was part of the IUPAC World Chemistry Congress in San Juan, Puerto Rico. This symposium covered two major development lines, which are also prominently represented in the journal, i.e., materials for energy and nanoscale materials, with contributions from invited experts in each of these fields. The symposium was very well-received, and it was supplemented by an interesting new element, i.e., workshops, which were introduced by short statements and then provided ample room for very interesting discussions.

In the past, chemistry had often been perceived as a science and an industry which caused problems—pollution, accidents, and chemicals in food—but this has changed; instead of being seen as the origin of problems, chemistry is now widely regarded as the science which provides solutions. Among the different branches of chemistry, materials chemistry is certainly one of the most important fields in creating this image. Novel materials contribute to the adaptation of our societies to a more sustainable energy supply, innovative drug carrier materials allow a more targeted delivery of drugs selectively and with less side effects to those organs where they are needed, and electronically functional materials help to diminish device sizes further and further, to name just a few. These are visible achievements of materials chemistry which do not remain in the scientific realm but often have direct implications for our societies. *Chemistry of Materials* carries many of the groundbreaking papers in these fields, and the jump in the impact factor from 5.368 in 2009 to 6.400 in 2010, with close to 63,000 total citations, underlines this fact impressively.

Citation counts and impact factors are one measure of the success of a journal, but another one is the appeal to readers and authors alike. In the past few years, submissions to *Chemistry of Materials* have reached the highest level in the history of the journal. This is certainly due to not only the high visibility of published articles in *Chemistry of Materials* but also to the short turnaround times. In 2010, the time from submission to acceptance was just 12 weeks, and the time from acceptance to ASAP publication on the Web was as short as just over 2 weeks.

Since we do not intend to expand the number of papers published per year, the increasing submission numbers require editors to be even more critical in assessing incoming manuscripts. The two-stage review process is now well-established and includes an initial review by the Editors with a focus primarily on fit to the journal and level of significance to materials chemistry, followed by possible external review including these same criteria in addition to the technical

quality of the work. This editorial review process has proven to be beneficial for authors, reviewers, and readers of the journal alike. Authors benefit from very short turnaround times, typically a few days, for manuscripts that are not suitable for the journal, although less successful authors may initially be disappointed by a rejection on the editorial level. Reviewers are asked less frequently for their assessments, and only for such manuscripts which have passed an initial screening. Readers have a higher probability of finding significant work from their fields, as expected for one of the top journals in materials chemistry. With the high number of submissions and the two-stage review process implemented, it comes as no surprise that this high level of selectivity leads to an equally high level of quality and significance in our published papers.

Special issues of *Chemistry of Materials*, which focus on a specific topic, have appeared in the journal for many years. Such special issues provide a valuable review of the state-of-the-art and the perspectives in a subfield of materials chemistry, by a blend of invited, authoritative review papers and original contributions. Over the past few years, such special issues were published annually and edited by one or more of the Editors of *Chemistry of Materials*, often supported by guest editors who are specialists in the fields covered by the issue. In 2011, “ $\pi$ -Functional Materials”, edited by Jean-Luc Bredas, Seth Marder (Guest Editor), and Elsa Reichmanis, appeared as issue 3 in February. By now, this special issue has collected the most citations of all of this year’s issues, both for the Review papers and the original contributions; the ten most highly cited papers are all from issue 3. This clearly demonstrates the attention that such focused issues receive and underlines the value for the authors contributing to such issues: they are an excellent way to draw a high level of attention toward one’s work. This year, we look forward to another exciting issue, on “Materials for Biological Applications”, co-edited by Frank Caruso, Patrick Stayton (Guest Editor), and Michael D. Ward, which is scheduled to appear in early 2012. Also for early 2013, a special issue is planned in a field where we receive many manuscripts, with the title “Synthetic and Mechanistic Advances in Nanocrystal Growth”, edited by Bill Buhro, Frank Caruso, Susan Kauzlarich, and Michael D. Ward. The call for submissions can be found on the CM Home page and elsewhere in this print issue.

Since the end of last year, we provide an additional option to our authors, the “Just Accepted Manuscripts” service. If authors opt for the “Just Accepted” service, their manuscript is posted on the Just Accepted Manuscript Web page almost immediately after acceptance, prior to technical editing, formatting for publication, and author proofing. This is introduced to allow even faster dissemination of scientific information after acceptance of a manuscript. Such manuscripts appear as PDF files, accompanied by an HTML abstract. The “Just Accepted” manuscripts are fully accessible and can be cited by their Digital Object Identifier (DOI). Since the manuscripts are not the final

Published: January 10, 2012



scientific version of a publication, they are removed from the “Just Accepted” Web site as soon as the edited ASAP version of the manuscript appears. The DOI of the ASAP article is identical to the one of the “Just Accepted” manuscript, which ensures that citations to “Just Accepted” manuscripts link to the final scientific article of record when it becomes available.

Every year you see new names on the list of our editorial advisory board (EAB), whereas familiar ones may have disappeared. This is due to the fact that we ask our EAB members for a maximum of two terms of service. Thus, we have a sufficient level of continuity, but fresh ideas can be introduced as well. Moreover, the composition of the EAB can be adjusted to changes in the topical distribution of submissions and geographic locations of *Chemistry of Materials* authors—we now receive more than 80% of the submissions from outside of the United States and Canada. We are very grateful for the dedication of the parting EAB members in supporting the journal, and we would like to extend a warm welcome to the new ones who have joined us in 2012.

Less frequent are changes in the list of Editors. With the end of last year, Hellmut Eckert has retired from the editorial board, after serving the journal since the beginning of 1998. Hellmut has brought invaluable expertise in solid state science to the board, with respect to the materials as well as to their characterization and applications, and has helped to shape the journal into what it is now. All editors rely on dedicated editorial assistants, and Wilma Pröbsting has very competently supported Hellmut in Münster during all these years, as many authors will have experienced. We would like to express our deep gratitude for their service to the journal. Thank you, Hellmut and Wilma.

2011 was a great year for chemistry as a whole and our journal, *Chemistry of Materials*. We are looking forward to an equally exciting 2012. We hope that all our readers will enjoy the science reported in *Chemistry of Materials*, and all our authors will enjoy seeing their best work published here.

**Ferdi Schüth, Editor**