

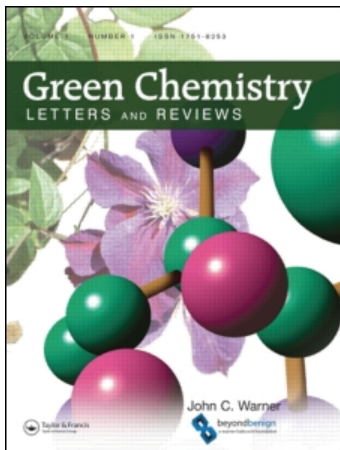
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EDITORIAL COMMENT

The natural evolution of green chemistry

John Warner, Editor

It is astounding to observe the progress that has been made in the relatively short lifespan of the field of green chemistry. In the time since green chemistry crystallized as a cohesive area of endeavor, we have seen it emerge in several dimensions.

- *Breadth* Not so long ago, green chemistry was only associated with organic synthesis or perhaps catalysis, but now we are seeing that all aspects of chemistry, biochemistry, material science and much more have made major advances in green chemistry, and active research and development initiatives are emerging. The breadth of green chemistry is not, however, merely found in the science, but also in the application of that science. Rather than simply being restricted to the traditional chemical industry, now all industry sectors that use chemistry, which are as broad as pharmaceuticals, agriculture, automotive, electronics, and textiles, have not only discovered green chemistry, but also are exploiting its innovation for commercial advantage.
- *Depth* During the emergence of the field of green chemistry, it was not uncommon to identify the research group working on a particular problem or field of investigation. Now, communities of research teams from wide-ranging institutions are addressing each of the great scientific questions and challenges facing green chemistry. We now see thriving communities on topics including C–H activation, polymer degradation, catalytic coupling, supercritical fluids, ionic liquids, computational molecular design, bioenergy, and much more.
- *Geography* While it is true that the early years of green chemistry may have been populated with a small number of people in a few industrialized nations, the face of green chemistry has changed to include outstanding actions all around the world. In recent years, the rapid growth taking place in South America, India, China and Africa has shown the importance of green chemistry in all contexts and circumstances where chemistry has the potential to improve people's lives.

These developments should be expected in any field based around an idea whose time has come. We have seen similar trends in other fields as they emerge, both within chemistry and more broadly. It is for these reasons that *Green Chemistry Letters and Reviews* is

part of the evolution of green chemistry. The leadership shown by other journals, most notably *Green Chemistry* by the Royal Society of Chemistry, cannot be overstated. With leading figures such as Professor Martyn Poliakoff and Professor Walter Leitner at the helm of the journal, it has blazed an important path that has been and continues to be an essential part of the field of green chemistry. Much as the field of green chemistry has grown and expanded, the new outlets to complement, not duplicate, the good work of existing journals will also grow to allow venues and an appropriate place to cover certain types of green chemistry materials.

Reviews. With the expansion of green chemistry research taking place at such a rapid rate, it is more necessary than ever to have a place where a survey of those important topics can be published. This journal hopes to attract these reviews to aid researchers in understanding the state of the science on important topics.

Letters. It is essential in a fast moving field to have results available in the open literature as rapidly as possible. While full papers serve an important and essential purpose, letters that communicate clearly and concisely the most time sensitive results is a service this journal seeks to advance.

A special aspect of the journal is the ability to interactively discuss the papers with the authors. Upon publication, electronic bulletin board/chat rooms will be established to allow direct and public correspondence with authors regarding their published work. We believe that this feature will provide a conduit between the teaching and research communities to see the journal as a living and interactive textbook. Details of the mechanisms and shape of this innovative forum will be forthcoming.

The journal will be divided into three topic areas, in the full knowledge that frequently these areas may cross over into one another. The areas are research, education and industrial implementation. We are fortunate to have leaders in these areas assisting with the journal. Professor Julie Haack has distinguished herself as a pioneer in building the green chemistry educational community (GEMS), faculty training, GC ED Net. Carles Esteves of IUCT in

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Barcelona, Spain, has pioneered a business model that advances green chemistry in industry by working with over 200 companies to implement practical and profitable green chemistry solutions. Paul Anastas needs no introduction to the field. From the beginning, his leadership has provided the inspiration and

much of the tools responsible for bringing green chemistry to where it is today.

It is an exciting time in the sciences. We look forward to working with old friends, current colleagues, and many new individuals and groups in the years ahead.