

Editorial: A Change of the Guard

It is with some trepidation and a great deal of excitement that I begin my term as Editor-in-Chief of *Inorganic Chemistry*. Just a few months ago, when asked to consider this position, my reaction was somewhat like Mark Twain's: "I am not the editor of a newspaper and shall always try to do right and be good so that God will not make me one."¹ Then I reflected upon many things: the enduring strength of the journal as an institution, my enjoyment working with superb Associate Editor colleagues, the intriguing challenges facing scientific publishing in the social-media age, and my own desire to serve, to give back to a wonderful community of chemists fascinated by inorganic compounds and materials and motivated to better society through forefront scientific research and education. So, rather than take Twain's approach, I hope "to do right and be good" by working with you, the readers, reviewers, and authors of our journal, to enhance the global reach and impact of inorganic chemistry.

The field of inorganic chemistry is stronger than ever, in a key sense because of its diversity. At the interface of many other chemistry subdisciplines, inorganic chemistry connects biology, nanoscience, materials science, catalysis, and organic synthesis. It encompasses organometallic, solid-state, structural, and bioinorganic chemistry and impacts efforts to solve the most pressing contemporary problems, ranging from renewable energy to fighting disease, from metal-ion sensors to green chemistry, and more. This unparalleled breadth defines the field and will continue to be represented by the articles published in the journal.

My transition to Editor-in-Chief is made easier by the fact that the great ship *Inorganic Chemistry* has had such an outstanding captain during the last dozen years. Rich Eisenberg has done a superb job of leading the journal through many changes. For example, he has overseen a dramatic increase in submissions (largely from Asia), the implementation of Paragon Plus, a significant decrease in the manuscript turnaround time, and the addition of a cadre of new Associate Editors (Figure 1). He also introduced many new and effective features, such as cover art, Forums, virtual issues, Viewpoint articles, and the "Voices of Inorganic Chemistry" videos. The steadily increasing citation metrics (82,190 citations and an impact factor of 4.601 in 2011) under his leadership reflect the overall quality of the science the journal publishes and its appeal to the wider community. He made sure that the journal stakes out the proper niche by carefully drawing boundaries with the other subdisciplines and their specialized publications. As a result, *Inorganic Chemistry* continues to be a vibrant and stable institution that serves a broad audience from across many subdisciplines. All of these contributions and strengths are a direct result of Rich's hard work and personal touch, for which I am most thankful.

Of course, Rich did not do it alone. He has benefited from insightful input from members of the Editorial Advisory Board and has trusted and relied on the efforts of a team of Associate Editors from around the globe with a wide range of expertise. I am proud to have been part of this outstanding group and am



Figure 1. From left to right: Outgoing Editor-in-Chief Rich Eisenberg, Associate Editors Jim Mayer, Vivian Yam, Vince Pecoraro, Ed Solomon, Franc Meyer, Kim Dunbar, and Alan Balch, and Incoming Editor-in-Chief Bill Tolman, at a recent meeting in Washington, DC. Not shown are Associate Editors Ken Poepelmeier and Phil Power.

lucky to have had the opportunity to work with my fellow Associate Editors. They not only have provided exemplary service but, through their own scientific excellence, have raised the profile of the journal. It is my pleasure to announce a new addition to the group, Professor Franc Meyer from the Institut für Anorganische Chemie, Georg-August-Universität, Göttingen, Germany. Franc is a well-respected scientist with expertise in synthetic inorganic chemistry and particular interests in bioinorganic chemistry and catalysis with dinuclear complexes. He has been an excellent contributor and reviewer for the journal for many years and will be our first Associate Editor residing in Europe.

Looking forward, I see several key challenges for future growth and stability of *Inorganic Chemistry*. One centers on social media, which has exploded since Rich began as Editor-in-Chief in 2001. Launched in 2004, Facebook now claims more than 1 billion monthly active users (as of October 2012). Twitter started in 2006, and in 2012, it had 500 million users. Blogs are becoming ever more popular for expressing important ideas, sharing best practices, and enabling wide-ranging conversations. Indeed, there are now many blogs that focus on chemistry topics, sponsored by the ACS (cf. Act4Chemistry and C&Entral Science Blog) and others (cf. ChemBark, Chemistry Blog, and Chemistry Central). Internet usage has undergone a seismic shift, for as predicted "the Web will be [is] understood not as screenfuls of text and graphics but as a transport mechanism, the ether through which interactivity happens."² Within this context of vibrant change in global communication, it is clear that *Inorganic Chemistry* will need to have a strong social-media presence to bring new readers to the journal and to involve them actively in the field. The younger generation of inorganic chemists are "natives" to Facebook, Twitter, and blogging, and competing for their attention must be a priority. To put it more broadly, growing our social-media platform will provide the means for active participation by our audience in conversations that will be important for furthering inorganic chemistry and enhancing the impact of the journal. I invite you to join the conversation on Twitter @InorgChem.

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As noted previously by Rich, “a second major change is the continued globalization of the chemistry community.”³ In 2012, ~73% of articles published ASAP were from authors outside the United States. Continued cultivation of the international inorganic chemistry community must be a priority, which can be addressed by the addition of Associate Editors from underrepresented regions, an increase in our presence at international meetings, and other outreach activities. Further enhanced interactions with the international community will be important in ensuring that the journal remains at the forefront of the field globally.

A third and ever-present challenge concerns quality. What makes all American Chemical Society journals special is the overall high scientific excellence and the significance and novelty of the work that is published. My own view is that one can never be self-satisfied when it comes to the quality of one’s own work. We must always push to make the science we publish in *Inorganic Chemistry* better, by which I mean more scientifically sound, exciting, significant, and clearly and concisely presented. Authors, submit your very best work to *Inorganic Chemistry*!⁴ Reviewers, continue to conscientiously (and quickly) attend to your evaluations and help authors make their publications of the highest caliber! Readers, keep reading, tweeting, linking via Facebook, and generally talking about our field in person, in classes, and in blogs! Together, we can continue to raise the bar and keep *Inorganic Chemistry* at the top of the heap of journals in the field.

There are certainly many ways to address the aforementioned challenges, and I am always open to new ideas. Please do not hesitate to let me know what you think. The playwright and novelist Irwin Shaw said, “A good editor understands what you’re talking and writing about and doesn’t meddle too much.” I will take that sentiment as a good suggestion going forward because I know that, ultimately, it is you, the readers, authors, and reviewers, who will make our journal great. I am honored to serve as Editor-in-Chief of *Inorganic Chemistry* and very much look forward to working with you.

William B. Tolman

■ AUTHOR INFORMATION

Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

■ REFERENCES

- (1) Twain, M. *The Galaxy*, December 1870.
- (2) DiNucci, D. *Print* **1999**, *53*, 32.
- (3) Eisenberg, R. *Inorg. Chem.* **2012**, *51* (24), 13069–13071.
- (4) Please refer to the Instructions to Authors, which feature some important changes effective in 2013. <http://pubs.acs.org/page/inocaj/submission/index.html>.