Inorg. Chem. **2004**, *43*, 7893

Inorganic Chemistry
Editorial

Enter the Forum...

This issue contains a new publication format for *Inorganic Chemistry* known as a Forum. A Forum consists of a set of thematically linked papers from leading scientists on a multidisciplinary topic of growing interest. The idea for the *Inorganic Chemistry* Forum grew out of the realization that many inorganic chemists were working on emerging research challenges at the interface of our field with other fields of molecular, materials and biological science. Forums are thus envisioned as a way to focus the attention of the inorganic chemistry community on important new interdisciplinary subjects while offering other researchers working on those subjects the broad insight and perspective that our field is able to provide.

Papers in a Forum will present overviews, research perspectives and original research reports on the Forum theme. Forum papers will be appropriately identified and grouped together at the front of the journal issue in which they appear and will be highlighted on the cover. The papers will also be listed on the journal homepage as Hot Articles and will thus be freely available to all. A guest editorial to give a brief overview of the Forum subject with identification of some of the key accomplishments and challenges will also appear in these issues. We anticipate that in addition to stimulating our readership, Forums will have great educational value in teaching at the advanced undergraduate and graduate levels by presenting inorganic chemistry in the context of forefront, interfacial subjects. This approach will be facilitated by the free availability of the Forum papers on the web.

Our inaugural Forum is on Metalloprotein Folding, and its assembly was led by Associate Editor Vincent Pecoraro, Kara Bren and Harry Gray. My personal thanks to them for developing a stimulating Forum that will generate great interest within and outside the regular *Inorganic Chemistry* readership. If, as chemists and molecular scientists, we believe that function follows structure, then how and why proteins adopt the structures they do by folding into particular conformations represents one of science's great questions. For the vast class of metalloproteins, structure and function intersect at the metal-containing active site and its environs to provide electron flow, bond activation and catalysis in living systems. In the business of protein folding, metal ions can also play critical roles as templates for, or determinants of, the secondary and tertiary structures adopted by metalloproteins.

Our Forum provides a sampler of this vast subject with reports that include how protein folding can control ligand dynamics and metal ion coordination, and how metal ions can template the structures of certain metalloproteins, as in the zinc finger proteins. In other studies, metal ion coordination is used to create and explore the interactions between helices in helical bundles while the lability of the metal complexes holding the helices together offers insight into kinetic versus thermodynamic control of those interactions. We also see in another study how metal-containing chromophores can be employed to monitor protein folding by photochemical quenching as a function of denaturant concentrations. I hope that you find the Forum papers stimulating reading and illustrative of the interface of metal complex chemistry with molecular biology.

Two other Forums are under active development. One on Functional Insight from Physical Methods on Metalloenzymes will appear in early 2005 and the other on Solar and Renewable Energy is slated for next summer. Once fully implemented, *Inorganic Chemistry* will publish up to three Forums per year. Many subjects have been suggested to us as possible Forum themes and range from other aspects of biologically relevant inorganic chemistry to catalysis, biogeochemistry, self-assembly, functionally designed materials, nanowires and molecular mechanics. The possibilities are impressive in number and scope. I am pleased to invite your participation in the formulation of new Forums by sending your suggestions to me at inorg.chem@rochester.edu.

While Forums will spotlight important and emerging interdisciplinary subjects, let me assure you that *Inorganic Chemistry* will remain focused as a journal for the primary reporting of research results and dedicated to bringing our readers the highest quality research in all aspects of inorganic chemistry and related molecular science.

...Exit the Paper Submission

A casual perusal of my desk will tell you that we are far from a paperless world. However, one area in which the change from paper to electronic has been staggering is manuscript submission. In 2001, *Inorganic Chemistry* commenced web submission for Communications only and expanded that to full papers the following year. Now, just three years later, we are receiving more than 95% of our submissions via Paragon, the ACS web manuscript submission system. The ease of submission has obviously found favor with our community as submissions have increased greatly during this period—nearly a 30% increase—and I have even received apologetic letters from a few submitters of hard copy manuscripts. After much discussion about the pros and cons of maintaining two different submission media, we have concluded that beginning in 2005, *Inorganic Chemistry* will only accept electronic submissions. But just to show that old concepts die hard, I am sure that we will continue to refer to them on occasion as "papers".

In closing, please let me thank all of you for your continued support of *Inorganic Chemistry*. Last year we registered more total citations (48,640; second was 27,572) and possessed the largest impact factor (3.389) of any primary research journal with more than 100 articles in our field.

Richard Eisenberg
Editor-in-Chief
IC040116M

10.1021/ic040116m CCC: $27.50
Published on Web 12/06/2004