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EDITORIAL

Status and Prospects—2001

Year 2000 has been a busy and productive year for the Journal. Notable accomplishments include a 14% increase in manuscripts submitted and a 13% increase in pages published through October 2000, compared to the same period in 1999. This continues the trend begun in the early 1990s, largely fueled by growth in manuscript submissions from Europe and Asia.

Year 2000 was also devoted to addressing a chronic, near-crisis shortage of reviewers. We conducted a survey to update our reviewer roster in order to relieve the situation. I take this opportunity to thank all who have returned a completed reviewer survey. If you have not been contacted but are willing to review, please download the survey form from http://www.envtox.ucdavis.edu/TDC/DocCenter/jafcsurvey2000/1_Websurveyform2000.pdf and send it to us by mail or fax. Vince Herbert, Judi Scruggs, and Cindy Hoonhout of the University of Nevada and Loreen Kleinschmidt and Ann Ray of the Journal's new office at the University of California, Davis, are working with the ACS Publications Office to complete the update of our reviewer database. Beginning 2001 we will also ask authors to recommend qualified reviewers at the time of submission. These steps will shorten manuscript processing time and improve the overall quality of JAFc. Peer review is the basis of journal quality, so hats off to all of the 1896-plus reviewers who helped us out during the past year. They are acknowledged by name elsewhere in this issue.

There are some other changes in the offing. Beginning January 2001, ACS will no longer assess page charges for any of its journals, including JAFc. Also beginning with this issue, JAFc will change to a numerical referencing system more in line with that of other ACS journals. This will allow readers of the web edition to take full advantage of ACS reference linking features. Additional changes in the layout and appearances are being planned for 2002, including moving to two issues per month. We have added 7 new Advisory Board members, including 2 from European nations, to join 16 continuing members. And we have added a new category, "Bioactive Constituents", for manuscripts in the emerging area of the chemistry of healthful non-nutritive constituents of foods, responding to a suggestion by members of the Agricultural and Food Chemistry Division of the ACS. We are in the process of examining the "Biotechnology" category, including what

is a proper definition for biotechnology insofar as the Journal is concerned. A forthcoming Editorial will deal with this in more depth. We are always working at providing clearer, more specific guidance to authors in the detailed instructions in this issue of the Journal. And we are adding a new feature on book titles that are brought to our attention, joining a standing policy to publish notices of upcoming meetings/conferences that might be of general interest to readers of the Journal.

There are major developments in place, or just around the corner, in electronic versions, electronic subscriptions, and electronic manuscript processing. Of course, it is already possible to subscribe to the JAFc web edition, including access to full-text versions of the Journal back to 1996. ACS plans to create electronic archives of all of its journals back to Volume 1, by January 2002. Searchable bibliographic information will accompany the articles, which will be available as PDF files. Electronic versions are also being used to speed publication; manuscripts are posted on the web from 2 to 11 weeks before they appear in print. Web submission of manuscripts will likely begin later this year for JAFc. Of course, we want to see that access to the Journal is as widespread as possible. If you are interested in hardcopy or electronic subscription services, contact Mr. Dean Smith, ACS Publication Sales Manager (d_smith@acs.org).

Let me take this opportunity to thank our Associate Editors, Drs. John Finley, Russell Molyneux, Marshall Phillips, and Willis Wheeler, and their editorial assistants for their fine work during 2000. I thank also the staff in the Editor's office in the Department of Environmental Toxicology at UC Davis (Loreen Kleinschmidt and Ann Ray) and at the University of Nevada, Reno (Judi Scruggs), who worked so well together in transitioning the office to UC Davis in early 2000. And I particularly thank our authors, reviewers, and readers for their continued support in helping the Journal maintain its position as the leading international journal in its field. We will not take our reputation for granted, and thus will continue to strive to improve in 2001.

Your suggestions are welcome!

James N. Seiber
Editor

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