



## EDITORIAL

### Letter from the Editor-in-Chief

Dear Reader and Colleague,

The *Journal of Biomolecular NMR* continues to attract an ever increasing flow of manuscripts. In response, the publisher and the Editors have taken the decision that *J. Biomol. NMR* will be published as a monthly journal from 1999 onward. In addition, some editorial guidelines will immediately be adjusted to adapt to the rapid evolution of our field of science as well as to the large number of authors that wish to publish in our Journal.

We shall continue to make every effort possible within the practical constraints of the daily life of an editor/publisher to produce the largest possible number of papers rapidly after submission and acceptance. *Short Communications* and *Assignment Notes* therefore continue to have preferred status in that they will be published in the next issue produced after acceptance. In view of this preferred status, particularly high demands for outstanding quality will be made in the refereeing process. For articles, the editors may decide, either upon request by the authors or by their own initiative, to provide 'accelerated publication status'. At most 10 articles may be treated as 'accelerated publications' in any given calendar year. With regard to priority of publication such an article will then be treated similarly to a *Short Communication*. The following text gives some additional guidelines for the individual types of contributions.

*Articles*: In the reviewing process we will continue to adhere to strict selection of only the highest quality work. To ensure that the papers have a manageable size, during the refereeing process special emphasis will be given to concise presentation of both the text and the documentation with figures and tables.

*Short Communications*: The format will be unchanged, except that the maximal size will now be 4 printed pages, including figures, tables and references. Manuscripts that are obviously too long will be returned to the authors. If a communication turns out to be slightly in excess of 4 pages at the time of printing, the paper will have to be shortened by the authors at the proof stage so as to fit on 4 pages. A sizing guide is provided in the *Instructions to Authors* printed at the back of this issue.

*Assignment Notes*: The present format will be maintained (see *J. Biomol. NMR*, **9**, 445–446 (1997)). No excess of the 2-page size limit will be tolerated, and the maximal length will be enforced as described above for *Short Communications*. The experience gained so far further led to the decision that *Assignment Notes* are from now on acceptable only for natural proteins of size 100 amino acid residues or larger, and provided that the results include complete polypeptide backbone assignments and complete or nearly complete side chain assignments. Only in very special cases may the Editors make exceptions to these rules. General availability of data that do not qualify for publication as an *Assignment Note* may always be secured by deposition in a data bank.

Finally, I would like to attract your attention to the publication of the 'Recommendations for the Presentation of NMR Structures of Proteins and Nucleic Acids' in one of the upcoming issues. These 'Recommendations' have been commissioned by International Science Organizations, in particular IUPAC, IUBMB, IUPAB, CODATA and ICSU, and the Editors of this Journal were heavily involved in this project. Hopefully, the 'Recommendations' will become a useful work of reference for the readers of *J. Biomol. NMR*.

K. Wüthrich