



## EDITORIAL

### Letter from the Editor-in-Chief

Dear Reader and Colleague,

In my last Editorial in issue 11-2 I announced plans to publish *Journal of Biomolecular NMR* as a monthly Journal from 1999 onward. In the meantime the flow of manuscripts has further increased, and we received highly encouraging news on the citation performance of papers published in *J. Biomol. NMR*. It was therefore easy for us to stick to our plan and to present today the first monthly issue of our Journal. Our statistics show that we succeeded during the last eight months to significantly reduce the publication times for manuscripts submitted to *J. Biomol. NMR*. The transition to monthly publication is a next step toward even more rapid publication, where our prime concern will be rapid turnover for *Short Communications*.

We continue to invite submission of three kinds of manuscripts, *Articles*, *Short Communications* and *Assignment Notes* in the new format of 'Letters to the Editor' (see below). For *Articles* and *Short Communications* we continue the policy outlined in my Editorial in *J. Biomol. NMR* (1998) **11**, 117. I would in particular want to remind you of the possibility to suggest an *Article* for 'accelerated publication status', the size limit of 4 pages for *Short Communications* and the special status of *Short Communications* for rapid publication.

*Assignment Notes* have been the most recent addition to the scope of publications in *J. Biomol. NMR*, and 1998 was the first year during which we could sample experience with this new type of publication. The high number of submissions clearly shows that with the *Assignment Notes* we respond to a widespread demand. Based on this encouraging response and considering its consequences for the Journal, we decided to slightly modify the processing of this type of manuscripts starting with the present issue 13-1. For technical reasons the *Assignment Notes* will from now on be published as 'Letters to the Editor'. The exact format of the new heading is included in the 'Instructions for Authors', which have been revised starting with the present issue. For practical reasons the time for processing and publication of a 'Letter to the Editor' will now be comparable to that of *Articles*. A major problem that we encountered with the manuscripts submitted as *Assignment Notes* is their often excessive length. We are not in a position, in the future, to publish any 'Letters to the Editor' that exceed the two-page limit. We ask for your help in carefully checking the length of the manuscripts. Otherwise condensation of the 'Letters to the Editor' either before they are sent out for review or at proof stage will inevitably delay publication.

Starting publication on a monthly schedule gives us the feeling of having 'grown up' with the venture of publishing *J. Biomol. NMR*. The encouraging short history of our Journal parallels the impressive evolution of the use of NMR with biological macromolecules, and we feel that there is reason for much optimism in both the field of NMR in structural biology and the *Journal of Biomolecular NMR*.

**K. Wüthrich**