

## Methods and Applications of Fluorescence

The *Journal of Fluorescence* has been publishing the proceedings from the *Methods and Applications of Fluorescence Conference* series for some years now, where the previous conference series on Fluorescence Microscopy and Fluorescent Probes, so successfully organized by Jan Slavik in Prague, Czech Republic, was merged with the MAFS series after Jan Slavik's untimely death in January 1999.

The most recent MAFS Conference, held in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, September 16–19, 2001, was a great success, attracting 360 participants from no fewer than 35 countries. This success was mirrored by the record number of Conference Proceedings submissions to the *Journal of Fluorescence*; approximately 50 papers were submitted in the months proceeding the conference. The *Journal's* recent changes, such as new editor, new editorial board, expanded *Journal* scope, and electronic manuscript submission and electronic galley proof viewing, has subsequently enabled the *Journal* to rapidly process and publish these manuscripts over two *Journal* issues and within only a few calendar months. Whilst coordinating a large number of manuscripts over a short period of

time is demanding by most *Journals* standards, we were additionally aided by the helpful nature and enthusiasm of contributing authors and referees, thank you.

Further changes currently taking place within the *Journal of Fluorescence* are enabling it to respond to the both the continuing changes in global multimedia publishing and the varying needs of the fluorescence community. Hence, the *Journal* is well positioned to host future conference proceedings based on the principles and/or applications of fluorescence.

Subsequently we thank the organisers of the MAFS conference series, both recent and past, for choosing the *Journal of Fluorescence* as their publishing medium, and we look forward to successfully publishing the proceedings from the 8th MAFS meeting, which will take place in Prague on the August 24–27 2003, to the highest standards to which authors and readers of the *Journal of Fluorescence* have now become accustomed.

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