

Introductory Statement

Fluorescence spectroscopy is a widely used research tool in biochemistry, biophysics, analytical chemistry, immunology, and cell biology. The uses and applications of fluorescence are rapidly expanding due to the introduction of new technologies for light generation and detection and the development of new instrumentation for time-resolved and imaging applications. The sensitivity of fluorescence detection and the absence of ionizing radiation have resulted in an increasing use of fluorescence for clinical analysis. Furthermore, improved methods of multiparametric data analysis and increases in computational power are being combined for increased resolution of the emission due to complex photophysical processes or complex biological systems. Importantly, the increased understanding of the effect of chemical structure on fluorescence spectral parameters is resulting in an ability to design fluorescence probes with desired spectral properties or sensitivity to particular substances. Such designer-probes may minimize a weakness of fluorescence, this being a lack of specificity.

The *Journal of Fluorescence* is intended to be the central repository for advances in the fundamentals of fluorescence spectroscopy and its applications to the biochemical sciences. The journal publishes peer-reviewed articles that advance the cutting edge of this technique. The journal's scope includes all topics that advance the understanding of this phenomenon and the practice of this spectroscopic technique. These topics include advances in theory and/or data analysis, characterization of the photophysics of aromatic molecules and their interactions with the environment, development of advanced instrumentation for stationary or time-resolved measurements, novel experimental methods, advances in fluorescence microscopy, imaging, photobleaching/recovery measurements and/or phosphorescence for studies of cell biology, and advanced uses of fluorescence in flow cytometry and/or immunology. The applications include, but are not limited to, studies of the emission of proteins, nucleic acids, and other macromolecules, studies of membranes and biopolymer dynamics, studies of the interactions between biological macromolecules, and studies of protein and/or membrane conformation, intracellular chemistry, and photon migration in tissues.

Additionally, the journal accepts papers that describe new clinical and/or chemical analysis methods, papers that provide data on standards or standardization procedures, and papers that describe the characterization of new fluorophores, particularly those that display unique sensitivities and/or optical properties.

The *Journal of Fluorescence* is published quarterly in 1991, and its frequency will be increased in future years as needed. The journal publishes peer-reviewed original papers, including short communications on topics of immediate interest, and reviews, invited or submitted, on topics of widespread interest. I welcome your comments and suggestions on how to improve the journal.

I am pleased to acknowledge the many individuals who have contributed to this venture. I thank the members of the Editorial Board for their willingness to work on all the tasks necessary to initiate and maintain a solid journal publishing high-quality contributions. I am grateful to Plenum Publishing Corporation for their encouragement. And, finally, I thank Suzy Rhinehart, who suggested that the journal be started and is responsible for anything that goes smoothly.

We invite your participation. Send all manuscript submissions, editorial inquiries, and comments to the Editor-in-Chief: Joseph R. Lakowicz, University of Maryland School of Medicine, Center for Fluorescence Spectroscopy, Department of Biological Chemistry, 660 West Redwood Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201. Please send subscription inquiries and orders directly to the publisher: Subscription Department, Plenum Publishing Corporation, 233 Spring Street, New York, N.Y. 10013.

The *Journal of Fluorescence* provides an international forum for the publication of original peer-reviewed papers in the field of fluorescence. We trust the journal will prove to be valuable to scientists, researchers, educators, and other professionals who practice this spectroscopic technique. We hope to serve our community well, and welcome your support—as readers, authors, referees, and subscribers—to help achieve that goal.

Joseph R. Lakowicz
Editor-in-Chief