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## Editorial

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Ten years ago the phrase 'materials chemistry' would have been a contradiction in terms. 'Materials' were either the province of the metallurgist, the ceramicist or other cognate professions for whom the behaviour of materials in bulk was not instinctively connected with their short range atomic or molecular makeup. And from the chemists' standpoint 'materials' were mysterious entities that had little to do with traditional preoccupations of synthesis, reactivity, catalysis and so on. The sea change in thinking has been brought about in part by the resurgence of solid state chemistry as an important integral part of chemical science, and partly by the enormously enhanced influence of molecular science, exemplified by polymer chemistry, liquid crystals and similar fields that are influencing technology in a massive way. One powerful catalyst in developing the new field has been the emergence of journals such as this one, to act as a rallying point for the dispersed and disparate practitioners in the new subject.

After nine years from its foundation there can be few journals in the chemical sciences which bring together such a wide range of topics, through synthesis and characterisation (both chemical and physical) to the greatest variety of properties. Furthermore, it is fundamental to the chemists' approach to materials that there should be an equally large scope for different categories of compound, from new intermetallic phases through oxides and other chalcogenides and pnictides to the whole gamut of molecular solids. Among the latter are the crystalline, such as superconductors and molecular-based magnets, and liquid-crystalline, as well as polymers and thin films.

Acknowledging this extraordinary range of subject matter, the Royal Society of Chemistry calls on an equally broad group of practitioners and experts to evaluate contributions and give professional oversight to the publishing process. In taking over from Martin Bryce as Scientific Advisory Editor I want to pay public tribute to his skill



Professor Peter Day FRS, Scientific Advisory Editor *Journal of Materials Chemistry*

in guiding *Journal of Materials Chemistry* over the last five years. It is in no small part due to his efforts that the reputation of the Journal continues to rise, and that it has enhanced its presence as a forum in the molecular as well as continuous lattice solid state. I am delighted that he has agreed to continue as Associate Editor, with special interest in the molecular field, and that Jean Etourneau will continue to play a corresponding role with respect to the continuous lattice solid state. With the backing of one of the largest professional chemical societies in the world, and certainly one of the largest publishing programmes, our task is to continue and even further raise the profile of *Journal of Materials Chemistry* as the medium of choice for the highest quality papers in this still new, but rapidly expanding, field.

**Peter Day**