Editorial

Faraday Discussions have been a staple of the Royal Society of Chemistry Meetings Programme for nearly a century and, because of this success as a format for discussing new results, in recent years, they have extended across the range of the Society's divisions. In such a Discussion, the submitted papers are circulated to attendees well in advance and the author has just five minutes to highlight the main points of novelty, so that most of the time in the meeting can be devoted to discussing the new work. Apart from his many other momentous discoveries, Faraday also found time to contribute to materials science, for example, the hardening of steel and optimising optical glass. So it is appropriate for materials chemistry to model itself on the format of the discussions that bear his name.

This issue of *Journal of Materials Chemistry* contains articles which formed the basis of presentations given at the most recent Materials Discussion Meeting—MD5: Porous Materials and Molecular Intercalation—which took place in Madrid between the 22nd and 25th of September 2002. This was the second such meeting to be held outside Britain, and we are extremely grateful to Professor Eduardo Ruiz-Hitzky, Dr Pilar Aranda and their colleagues for their work in making it such a success. It is a tradition of discussion meetings to include a summary of the points made by members of the audience, and Professor Ruiz-Hitzky has also performed this task. The present issue of this journal provides an excellent snapshot of the wide-ranging scope of porous materials and molecular intercalation.

The next Materials Discussion is scheduled to take place in Durham in 2003 on the subject of controlled polymer architectures. I would strongly encourage those scientists working in this field to consider submitting papers to this meeting and to support this most stimulating and educational format.

Peter Day
Scientific Advisory Editor

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