

## Editorial

The *Journal of Molecular Catalysis A: Chemical* is continuing its progression as a recognised and reputed publication in the general field of molecular catalysis, including all molecular and atomic aspects of catalytic activation and reaction mechanisms. Its impact factor is constantly and steadily rising although the journal comprehends several catalytic disciplines (homogeneous, heterogeneous, and biomimetic) that, for a long time, were considered as rivals and sometimes leading the scientific communities to which they belong to feel that the journal lacked focus. The latter situation is progressively changing as most catalysis scientists now recognise its multidisciplinary and the cross-fertilization which will arise from the synergy between these disciplines. The journal's objective continues to be quality and impact. The increasing number of submissions it is receiving will enable the latter.

It is recognised that publication delays may have been resented by some authors in the past. There are several reasons for this: restructuring of the Elsevier Publishers organization, practical problems in the handling of the manuscripts (e-copies on disk are not always forwarded on time), and also the slow or lack of response of referees. The two former problems are resolved as mentioned below. The last one is not. Clearly, scientists wish to have their papers published at the earliest but many of them still overlook the fact that they should also act promptly on manuscript peer reviews which they are asked to perform. Fortunately, the latter is still how the system works: it guarantees quality . . . . Unfortunately, it makes it difficult for the Editors as it very often leads to undesired lengthy times before the final version of a manuscript is sent to the publisher. Several measures have been taken in this respect.

- A more efficient handling of the manuscripts forwarded to the publisher will decrease the publication time to 12–14 weeks by the end of 2001 and 10–12 weeks thereafter.
- Electronic submissions will be possible and encouraged by the end of 2001. The necessary information will be included in a forthcoming issue.
- The refereeing process will be accelerated.
- Short papers and letters will be directed, with the author(s) consent to *Catalysis Communications*, a sister journal of the *Journal of Molecular Catalysis* which was specially set up to shorten publication delays for short contributions.

The ultimate target is to have accepted submissions published within 5 months from their received date.

The focus of the journal has been updated. Its general objective will be to publish scientific contributions examining the molecular and atomic aspects of catalytic activation and reaction mechanisms in the following.

- Organometallic and biomimetic catalysis.
- Ionic catalysis by acids, bases, and metal ions.
- Heterogeneous catalysis.

Typical topics for which manuscripts are invited, are as follows.

- New trends in homogeneous and heterogeneous catalysis, in relation to environment, energy, and fine chemicals, (organic and asymmetric synthesis, oxidation, C–H and C–C bond activation and functionalization, polymerisation, energy-assisted catalysis (photocatalysis, electrocatalysis)).
- Molecular engineering of porous and non-porous solids.

- Molecular design of active sites, homogeneous and heterogeneous.
- Molecular models and approaches to oxides, metals, zeolites, and mesoporous materials used as catalysts.
- Molecular description and approaches to catalysis on clean surfaces.
- Experimental and/or theoretical studies of elementary steps governing homogeneous and heterogeneous catalysis reactions.
- Relationship between homogeneous and heterogeneous catalysis.
- New reaction media (ionic liquids, supercritical solvents, . . .) for homogeneous and heterogeneous catalysis when these media influence the reaction path.
- Combinatorial methods for homogeneous and heterogeneous catalysis (molecular design of ligand libraries, new generic molecular approaches to the functionalization of surfaces, . . .).

Finally, the visibility of the content of each issue will be enhanced by including in the Table of Contents, for each contribution, a picture or figure, a brief introductory statement, and some relevant keywords.

The main objective of the journal remains to be a means by which the catalytic community can disseminate its output in the best possible way. Will you concur with me that the above measures will help and enable all of us, “catalytic” scientists to do so?

Eric G. Derouane  
*Department of Chemistry*  
*Leverhulme Center of Innovative Catalysis*  
*University of Liverpool*  
*P.O. Box 147, Liverpool L69 3BX, UK*  
Fax: +44-151-7943589.  
*E-mail address:* derouane@liverpool.ac.uk  
(E.G. Derouane)