

## Editorial

Two recent Publisher's notes that appeared in *Journal of Molecular Catalysis A: Chemical* mention changes which have recently occurred at the Editor's level. Professor F. Zaera who joined the board in 1998 retired due to other commitments. It was a great pleasure to work with him and witness and acknowledge his efforts to increase the journal presence in America. After 12 years of devotion to the journal, Professor J.-M. Basset has now become a member of the journal editorial board. I wish to thank both Professor F. Zaera and Professor J.-M. Basset personally, together with Elsevier, for their valuable contributions to the journal and their continuous efforts in order to increase the journal's quality and make it more visible and prosperous. Professor A. Sayari has been appointed as Editor in early March 2007. As a scientist of international reputation, with many contacts world-wide and with a broad view of catalysis, there is no doubt that the *Journal of Molecular Catalysis A: Chemical* will benefit greatly from his insight and expertise. The journal has again a team of Editors who will do their best to serve the catalysis scientific community.

The "new" editorial team (Professor T. Tatsumi, Professor G. Lloyd-Jones, Professor A. Sayari, and myself) met in early March to discuss issues related to the journal's future, with the main items being the scope of the journal and to provide the best service to its authors and readers by focussing on the quality of the papers published in its pages.

In 1975, the *Journal of Molecular Catalysis*, then published by Elsevier Sequoia in Lausanne, was launched at the initiative of Professor Ph. Teyszié and Professor W. Marconi. As mentioned in the editorial of volume 1–2 of *Journal of Molecular Catalysis* by Professor Marconi, this initiative resulted from "the absence of journals covering the molecular aspects of catalysis, as related to the specific structure of the "finite" catalyst molecule". It also emphasized that the purpose of the journal was to foster the interdisciplinary collaboration between scientists contributing to the above scope and record their contributions. In 1994, *Journal of Molecular Catalysis*, following its recent handling by Elsevier in Amsterdam was split into *Journal of Molecular Catalysis A: Chemical* and *Journal of Molecular Catalysis B: Enzymatic*. It resulted in a broadening of the scope of *Journal of Molecular Catalysis A: Chemical* which was most welcome at that time, although it is now agreed by the Editors that it diluted the essential molecu-

lar aspects of catalysis that the journal was initially intended for.

Several major decisions were made at the recent Editors' meeting. They are not a renaissance for the journal but rather a rejuvenation. Striving for focus and quality, the scope of the journal has been revised at the recent Editors' meeting. It is now strictly defined as:

*The general objective of the Journal of Molecular Catalysis A: Chemical is to publish original, rigorous, and scholarly contributions examining the molecular and atomic aspects of catalytic activation and reaction mechanisms in:*

- *Organometallic, biomimetic and organic catalysis,*
- *Ionic catalysis by acids, bases, and metal ions,*
- *Molecular aspects of heterogeneous catalysis.*

Submissions that do not fit the above categories will be rejected at the editorial level upon submission, without further review as practiced by the journals Science and Nature. Such are, for example, papers emphasizing mostly catalyst preparation and characterization, rather than molecular activation, molecular mechanisms, and kinetics. It is the Editors' expectation that this will attract more focussed and quality submissions in the journal scope areas, with the journal standing again on its roots. "Pruning" is sometime a difficult procedure but it often pays off. Potential authors and readers will most certainly benefit from it. Obviously, this will affect some of our previous authors and we apologize for it.

The aim of the journal is quality in the above areas. With this aim in mind, future issues of the journal will highlight articles of exceptional quality in a separate "Editors choice" section at the beginning of each volume.

It was also decided, at the Editors' meeting, to introduce some additional changes:

- Authors should note that the handling Editor is not selected from now on his/her geographical basis but from his/her expertise in the submission field only. Authors should only indicate the field (one of the three areas above) to which their manuscript pertain.
- *Journal of Molecular Catalysis A: Chemical* is not accepting short communications. Those should be directed to "*Catalysis*

*Communications*” or another journal. Reviews are still welcome but authors of non-invited reviews should contact an Editor prior to their manuscript submission.

- Revised papers should be submitted within 2 months, after which they will be rejected and will have to be re-submitted as a new paper.
- Authors need to clearly make a statement in their cover letter that their submission is original and that all authors agree its publication, if accepted.

All Editors hope that these changes will benefit the authors, readers, and reviewers.

*Editor-in-Chief*

Eric G. Derouane

*Instituto Superior Tecnico, Centro de Engenharia Biologica e*

*Quimica, Departamento de Engenharia Quimica,*

*Av. Rovisco Pais, P-1049-001 Lisboa, Portugal*

*E-mail address: [derouane@ualg.pt](mailto:derouane@ualg.pt)*

Available online 27 March 2007