



Editorial

Journal of Molecular Catalysis B: Enzymatic was launched two years ago as an international forum devoted to research and developments in the applications of whole cells and cell-free enzymes as catalysts in organic synthesis. The time was considered ripe to bridge the gap between biocatalysis and the mainstream of chemical catalysis by emphasizing the molecular aspects of catalysis by enzymes. Our goal was to publish research at the cutting edge of enzymatic catalysis, i.e. where biocatalysis and chemocatalysis meet: at the molecular level. Indeed, the two communities can learn much from each other; one only has to think of immobilization techniques, for example.

Now, two years later, we can look back on this initiative as a successful one. The response from the international biocatalysis community has been very encouraging. We think that we have achieved our initial goal of attracting quality manuscripts on mechanistic and synthetic aspects of biocatalytic transformations. Moreover, a special issue devoted to papers presented at the International Workshop on Microbial Lipases in Biocatalysis, held in Rome, is shortly due to appear.

We are pleased to report that the time between submission and acceptance/rejection decisions has been limited to an average of 2–3 months, thanks to the efforts of reviewers and response of authors to our requests in the reviewing process. In the future we will continue our commitment to providing our readers and authors with rapid publication of high quality manuscripts.

In addition to regular articles and short communications we also seek extended reviews on focused areas of enzymatic catalysis. Anyone interested in undertaking such a task is encouraged to contact one of the Editors. We also welcome suggestions from our readers for special issues devoted to specific topics, conference proceedings or in honour of leading figures in the area of enzymatic catalysis.

In short, we are confident that *Journal of Molecular Catalysis B: Enzymatic* will maintain its role as a primary vehicle for publishing innovation and excellence in fundamental and applied aspects of enzymatic catalysis.

R.A. Sheldon
Editor-in-Chief