

The Journal of Organic Chemistry, or *JOC* as it is known by organic chemists, enters its 7th decade as the premier international venue for publication of high quality research articles in all areas of the discipline. The Journal welcomes and publishes manuscripts in bioorganic, biosynthetic, natural products, and medicinal chemistry; new synthetic methods and total synthesis; organometallic chemistry; physical and computational organic chemistry; and materials, supramolecular, and nanochemistry. We are pleased by the contributions that the Journal makes in promoting the broad scope of modern organic chemistry. *JOC* is the most cited journal in the field of organic chemistry with over 74500 citations in 2004. Web access to *JOC* has ballooned with its home page receiving over 2.8 million hits worldwide during the first six months of 2005. Worldwide electronic access is now one-half million views each month! With an impact factor of 3.46 in 2004, *JOC* ranks highest among the organic chemistry journals that publish full articles. While most of the citations are to new issues, the high quality and ready access over the Web give added value to the older material in the *JOC* archives.

JOC is committed to providing the most reliable and thoroughly experimental protocols available in the primary organic literature. We frequently update the Guidelines to Authors as new procedures and analytical techniques become available. It is important that experiments reported in the Journal can be repeated in other laboratories. The 2006 Guidelines for Authors emphasize that *JOC* will not publish manuscripts describing results obtained with proprietary enzymes and reagents unless the materials are commercially available or can be obtained by a published method.

Electronic submission of manuscripts to *JOC* first became available in 2000. By the fall of 2004, paper submissions had dropped to only 8% of the total, and beginning in January of 2005, the journal no longer accepted paper submissions. Electronic submission, review, and revision have significantly reduced the time required to process manuscripts. The *JOC* editors and staff are committed to the highest possible speed for publication consistent with maintaining quality. By the end of 2005, the median time required from submission to acceptance of Articles and Notes had been reduced to 8 weeks, including the time required for revisions. This compares very favorably with review of communications in journals emphasizing a rapid publication format. An accepted manuscript, which must be typeset, typically appears on the web within four weeks after acceptance. Unfortunately, a substantial number of manuscripts received in the main office have not been prepared in accord with the Guidelines for Authors and must be revised before they can be sent to the editors to initiate the review process. Typically, these manuscripts do not provide the data necessary to establish structures and purity of compounds,

cannot be transmitted to reviewers because of improper formatting, or suffer from poor English construction. It is the author's responsibility to make sure that the manuscripts they submit conform to the *JOC* guidelines. At the discretion of the Editor-in-Chief, manuscripts that are poorly constructed, incomplete, written in poor English, or have other substantial deficiencies may be declined and returned to the author without review. **Manuscripts without these deficiencies are reviewed substantially faster.**

ACS Publications is in the process of implementing new integrated web-based software for editors, authors, and reviewers. *JOC* will be among the early journals to migrate to the Paragon Plus environment, currently planned for 2006. The editors and staff will work to ensure that the transition occurs without compromising the speed and efficiency of reviews. Authors who experience difficulty with submitting manuscripts are encouraged to contact the Editor-in-Chief's office (joc@chem.utah.edu, (801) 581-3368) or the Journal Help Desk (JOCHelp@acs.org, (800) 227-9919).

JOC Notes are a popular format for publication of concise accounts of studies of general interest to organic chemists. Manuscripts submitted as Notes should describe timely critical accounts that address novel and important problems. Notes should not present fragmentary or preliminary results that cannot be supported by an Experimental Section held to the same high standards as those in Articles. Notes are strictly limited to four printed pages, including the required Experimental Section. Guidelines for the length of manuscripts submitted as Notes are provided by the Journal, and those longer than 14 pages will not be submitted for review. However, authors should be aware that not all 14 page manuscripts, especially those with several schemes, figures, or tables, will fit within the four page limit and must be prepared to make the necessary revisions when requested to do so by the *JOC* office. Manuscripts submitted as Notes can be processed faster than Articles.

On behalf of the *JOC* editors, I want to express our gratitude to our reviewers. It would be impossible to maintain the high standards of the journal without the unselfish contribution of their time to read manuscripts and provide comments. We will continue to make every attempt to use their time wisely. We want to ensure our reviewers that each manuscript is examined in the *JOC* office before it is assigned to an editor. In the course of a review, it frequently becomes evident that a manuscript submitted to *JOC* has a history, sometime long, of previous reviews. This prior history should be disclosed at the time the manuscript is submitted along with the reviewers' comments, and the author should explain, in detail, what revisions were made in response to the reviews. In those cases where a manuscript with strong reviews is declined because it lacks sufficient interest outside of the organic community, a *JOC*

editor can make a decision without additional input. A new set of reviews will be obtained if requested by the author or at the discretion of the editor. Authors should be aware that the organic community is surprisingly small and that reviewers have often seen a previous version of a manuscript. Manuscripts that are resubmitted without attention to a reviewer's suggestions are typically not well-received.

Along with the advantages of electronic submissions are, unfortunately, continuing opportunities for abuse. *JOC* has experienced an increase in the number of manuscripts where a coherent body of work has been fragmented and submitted to two or more journals at almost the same time without informing the respective editors of the other submissions or providing proper cross-referencing. Issues related to coauthorship are also common. Of special concern is the submission of manuscripts by corresponding authors that do not give proper attribution to co-workers. This includes instances where other laboratories and co-workers are not acknowledged. Except in extreme cases, students and postdoctorals should not submit manuscripts describing work performed in a mentor's laboratory without the specific approval of the mentor. In such events, the Journal must be informed that this is the case. Coauthorship, especially for

collaborative projects, can be a sensitive issue. Editors cannot be expected to act as "judges" in these disputes without clear evidence that a commitment was abused. The best protection for the parties involved is a signed dated agreement about expectations for coauthorship at the beginning of the collaboration. Ethical guidelines for editors, authors, and reviewers are posted on the ACS Publications website.

The commitment of the *JOC* editors and staff to high quality and prompt review is constantly being challenged by a steady increase in the number of manuscripts submitted to the Journal. This year, Dan Singleton at Texas A&M University joined *JOC* as a new Associate Editor. Dan brings his valuable expertise and experience in the areas of mechanistic and computational organic chemistry to the editorial board. We welcome Dan and look forward to working with him. His appointment increases the number of editors to ten.

C. Dale Poulter, Editor-in-Chief

December 1, 2005

JO063305Q