

In 2008, *The Journal of Organic Chemistry* begins its 73rd year of publication. During this time, the journal has grown along with the field of organic chemistry. According to the most recent statistics, *JOC* was cited just over 82000 times in 2006. This number reflects a substantial increase from the previous year and again places *JOC* at the top of all organic chemistry journals in the number of citations. Along with the increase in citations, the impact factor has risen to 3.79, which is the highest of all organic chemistry journals that publish full articles. The *JOC* editors appreciate the efforts of our authors and reviewers for allowing us to maintain the journal's high level of excellence.

Beginning with this issue, *JOC* is introducing a new manuscript category called Featured Articles in order to highlight exceptional contributions to the journal. These are full papers selected by the editors during the review process for special consideration. Upon acceptance of a manuscript as a Featured Article, the galley proof will be prepared and sent to the author on an expedited schedule. When the corrected galley proof is returned, the article will go to ASAP where it will be posted for 3 months on a special page "Current Featured Articles" that can be accessed directly from the *JOC* home page. Afterward, Featured Articles will be permanently indexed in a special "Featured Articles Index". In addition, the galley proofs for Featured Articles will be paginated and included in the next available print issue of the journal.

In June of 2007, *JOC* migrated to the new ACS Paragon Plus web-based software for authors, reviewers, and editors. I want to thank the *JOC* and the ACS staff for their outstanding efforts to make this transition as smooth as possible. As with the installation of any new system, there are issues that remain to be addressed. The *JOC* editors and staff are working with the ACS staff to make modifications that further enhance the utility of ACS Paragon Plus, and we welcome suggestions for improvements from our authors and reviewers. Some of the enhancements now in place include a new interactive electronic

Copyright Status Form; an author/reviewer home page to track all submitted manuscripts and reviews across all ACS journals; an option for authors to submit pdf files of manuscripts; a link that directs reviewers to the manuscript and review form without requiring the reviewer to log into ACS Paragon Plus; and the option to save and return to a partially completed review.

Since its inception, *JOC* has welcomed international contributions, although in the "paper" era, there was a substantial difference in the cost and time required to process domestic manuscripts versus those submitted from abroad. Web-based submission effectively eliminates these differences and facilitates the international reviewing of manuscripts. In 2007, publications in the journal were almost equally divided among the Americas, Europe, and Asia and the Pacific.

For 2008, *JOC* welcomes Professor Carsten Bolm, Professor of Organic Chemistry at Aachen University, as its first international editor. Carsten joined the Editorial Advisory Board of *JOC* in 2005, and we now look forward to working with him in his new role as an editor.

The *JOC* editors and staff strive to provide authors with prompt and fair consideration of their manuscripts and our readers with descriptions of high quality research in organic chemistry. We thank our reviewers for their efforts to provide us with prompt, informative evaluations. During the past year, *JOC* maintained its substantial lead among all ACS journals that publish articles with a median time of only 8 weeks from receipt to acceptance of manuscripts. We look forward to working with our authors and reviewers in the coming year and welcome your comments about what we can do to improve our service to the organic chemistry community.

C. Dale Poulter, Editor-in-Chief

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