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## Editorial

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Last year we announced the broadening of the scope of *Journal of Photochemistry* to include Applied Photochemistry. That broadening was seen as a logical extension of our policy of making the Journal useful for all photochemists, and it was first implemented nearly 5 years ago when we deliberately set out to include qualitative and synthetic organic chemistry in our coverage. We now have the great pleasure of informing our readers of a further diversification of the scope of the Journal. From this issue on, we become *Journal of Photochemistry and Photobiology*.

Light affects living organisms in many ways. The evolution both of life on this planet and of the atmosphere we now possess has been utterly dependent on photochemical and photobiological phenomena. Photosynthesis is without doubt the most important of these processes, but vision and other responses to light (including diurnal and seasonal ones) play an essential part in life on Earth. Light is essential to health and well-being, and Man has learnt to harness light in diagnostic and therapeutic medicine. The study of photobiology is obviously closely linked with that of photochemistry, and often chemists and biologists must together try to understand some process such as photosynthesis or vision, although their ultimate objectives may be rather different. Photobiology is now a field of endeavour that is producing exciting and novel results, and the time was clearly ripe for a scientific journal such as ours to consider if photobiology should be included within its interests.

The time was also ripe in another way. The newly established European Society for Photobiology (ESP) had been for some time looking for an official Society journal. Our publishers were able to reach an agreement with the Society that will make one section of the new *Journal of Photochemistry and Photobiology* fulfil exactly the desired role.

For current readers of *Journal of Photochemistry*, the expansion may signal no more than the change in title. The Journal will be divided into two sections, *Chemistry* and *Biology*, which will be published separately to enable subscribers to select either or both sections, and to allow members of ESP to receive the *Biology* section as their Society journal. The new section will have its own Editor-in-Chief, Dr. Giulio Jori of the University of Padua, as well as its own Editorial Board. *Chemistry* will continue to be looked after by the present Editor-in-Chief and Associate Editors. It is expected that the two sections will differ somewhat in style because of the ESP involvement in one section and because of the different Editorial structure that has been devised for the *Biology* section. We are, however, taking this opportunity of rationalizing the categories of paper that will be considered. The "Short Communication" will cease to exist, because we have come to the

conclusion that there is no real difference between such communications and ordinary papers, except in length. Any papers submitted as Short Communications in future will therefore be treated as regular papers, and a Summary will be needed. "Preliminary Notes", however, are intended for publication of preliminary material where rapid handling is of real importance. We shall require that authors submitting papers under this heading make the case explicitly for the timeliness of their work and the urgency for its publication, while, for their part, the Editors and Publishers will take all possible steps to ensure expeditious publication.

*Journal of Photochemistry and Photobiology* will have two sets of volume numbers. Volume numbers will continue in their present sequence for the *Chemistry* section, and a new sequence will start for the *Biology* section. Each volume will carry an identification of "A: *Chemistry*" or "B: *Biology*" according to whether it belongs to the *Chemistry* series or the *Biology* series, so that readers and librarians may be certain that they have a complete run of either or both sections. The present issue is part of the *Chemistry* section, and will thus be referenced as *J. Photochem. Photobiol., A: Chem., 40* (1987). The first *Biology* issue will appear in September, 1987, and will be *J. Photochem. Photobiol., B: Biol., 1* (1987).

We hope that you will approve of the expansion of the scope of our Journal, and of the ecumenical motivation for it. We are sure that you will join with us in wishing the very greatest of success to the *Biology* section, to Dr. Jori and his team and to the ESP in the new venture.

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