

EDITORIAL

Three years ago we broadened the focus and interest of the *Journal of Solid State Chemistry* to cover all areas of solid state and materials chemistry. Given that solid state chemistry is a subdiscipline of the much larger field of materials chemistry, and to keep pace with the ever changing nature of scientific activity, this adjustment was not only appropriate and timely, it was also successful. The Journal attracted an increasing number of new manuscripts in materials chemistry. Our goal is to publish high quality work in all areas of the solid state chemical sciences.

J. M. Honig's term as an Editor ended in December of 1999. We thank George for his valuable contributions and service to the Journal and the chemical community at large. During his tenure as Editor, since 1982, the Journal grew substantially as it played and continues to play an important role in disseminating research results to a large global community of readers and authors. Established in 1969, JSSC has been one of the original journals covering the field of solid state chemical sciences, long before their importance in a greater chemical context was fully recognized.

The Editors of JSSC are pleased to announce the appointment of Susan Kauzlarich as Associate Editor. She joins Hanno zur Loye as an Associate Editor. Both Associate Editors have dynamic research programs in solid state and materials chemistry and bring a broad perspective to the Journal. Kauzlarich's interests in magnetic materials, synthesis and properties of new materials, intercalation chemistry, and the synthesis of nanoclusters complements zur Loye's research interests in magnetic/electronic materials, ionic conductors, materials synthesis, and the investigation of organic/inorganic coordination polymers. The Editorial team reflects the new vision of the Journal by encompassing both traditional solid state chemistry and materials chemistry.

We are pleased with our recent efforts to streamline and speed up our manuscript processing time. The submission to publication time in 1999 averaged 7.4 months. The Editors promise to work hard to assure prompt handling of the manuscripts and rapid publication after acceptance. Our goal is to achieve an average submission to publication time of 6–6.5 months in the near future. In addition, we changed the policy of the Journal regarding Editorial Board membership. The appointment of members to the board will be for three year terms, which are renewable up to two times depending on level of service (papers reviewed, papers submitted) for a total of nine consecutive years. The Journal may call upon certain members to rejoin the board in subsequent years. This achieves a dynamic board structure and facilitates adjusting the board composition as new areas of chemistry emerge. It also provides an objective mechanism for turnover of the Editorial Board.

It is also our goal to publish one or two special issues a year with themes of current topical interest. In 2000 we anticipate the publication of the special issue entitled "Design of Extended Solids from Molecular Building Blocks: A New Frontier in Solid State Chemistry" guest-edited by Omar M. Yaghi.

The Journal cover includes pictorial art such as a graphic or photograph which will change from time to time. Thus, we invite authors to submit such art for possible inclusion in the cover. Finally, we strongly encourage authors to submit short communications reporting results of unusual interest and urgency. The Journal will handle these "Rapid Communications" with utmost urgency for speedy publication and will rely on the board members for reviews for fast turnaround. With these

changes we aspire to keep the Journal current with the continuously changing and dynamic discipline of solid state and materials chemistry.

Mercouri G. Kanatzidis
Editor

Hanno zur Loye
Associate Editor

Susan Kauzlarich
Associate Editor