

Editorial

Since its launch in 1969 the *Journal of Solid State Chemistry* has strived to meet the needs of the scientific community. We are proud of the growing impact factor (1.815 2004 impact factor, Journal Citation Reports, Thomson Scientific). The journal continued to flourish in 2005 in almost every category within its scope. Increasingly more authors are choosing the *Journal of Solid State Chemistry* for publication of their most significant results. The number of submissions increased substantially in 2005 (circa 33%), going from 824 submitted papers in 2004 to 1069 in November 2005. The rejection rate increased further to approximately 55%. This was achieved both through the peer review system and through increased prescreening of manuscripts by the editors. The latter is based on a judgment by the editors regarding the suitability of a manuscript for the scope of the journal as well as the chances it has to survive the review process. In doing this we attempt to reduce the demands we place on our valued reviewers.

Although the rising submissions meant more stress on both the reviewers and editors, happily it indicates the growing international interest in the journal. Under the circumstances the reviewing community handled the workload graciously.

We appreciate and value those reviews very much. This is why we deeply thank the large number of reviewers as well as the members of the Editorial Advisory Board, who have responded rapidly with thoughtful and detailed comments on the articles they received. We are heavily indebted to them for their time and effort in helping us maintain our publication standards. Peer review is a critical function of the scientific publishing process, as it safeguards the quality of papers being published. Although the process is not perfect and reviewers can feel overburdened at times, no one has come up with a better way to ensure proper publication of scientific results. Thus, in a way, it is the price we have to pay for the privilege of reading and publishing dependable scientific information.

A major highlight of 2005 was the publication of the special issue titled “Reticular Chemistry: Design, Synthesis, Properties and Applications of Metal-Organic Polyhedra and Frameworks”, which was published in August. This issue contained several timely reviews and many interesting articles providing a fresh perspective on this rapidly developing field. We thank Professor Omar Yaghi of the University of Michigan Department of Chemistry for

putting together an exciting and valuable issue as guest editor. We welcome suggestions of topics for future special issues in emerging areas.

Important announcements for 2006 include Professor Susan Kauzlarich’s stepping down as associate editor. Susan served from 2000 to 2005. She has been an outstanding collaborator who worked hard to raise the stature of our journal. She has been a fair editor to authors, and we thank her very much for her excellent service. However, we are pleased to announce the addition of Professor Jing Li from the Department of Chemistry, Rutgers University, New Jersey, USA, as an associate editor. Professor Li’s research interests include organic–inorganic composites, nanostructures based on semiconductors, nanoparticles and quantum dots, metal chalcogenides, new types of host materials and metal coordination networks. Jing is well known for her expertise in synthesis, characterization and reactivity of solids, which will greatly enhance our ability to handle more manuscripts in growing areas of solid-state chemistry. We wish Jing much success in this new role and look forward to collaborating with her on the continued development of the journal.

With unprecedented worldwide accessibility to the journal through ScienceDirect, most readers now routinely access the *Journal of Solid State Chemistry*’s content online. Articles accepted for publication are published online in the “Articles in Press” section well before being compiled into an issue, minimizing any delay between acceptance and accessibility. In 2005 accepted articles were published online in an average of 7.1 weeks from acceptance. Considering that the average total editorial time for an accepted manuscript was 10.1 weeks, articles were published online in on average 16.9 weeks from submission. To ensure the most rapid publication of manuscripts, we request that authors submit online via <http://ees.elsevier.com/yjssc>. Moreover, we encourage prospective authors to take advantage of the fact that illustrations are presented online in color at no cost to the author. We also highlight that Elsevier has clear guidelines for the deposition of crystallographic data, requiring predeposition of files in Crystallographic Information File (CIF) format at the relevant data center prior to the submission of the manuscript. In addition, authors are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the “checkCIF” service available at <http://checkcif.iucr.org> to

validate CIF files before deposition. When submitting your manuscript online, please also upload the IUCr validation report plus the actual CIF files to help the referees reviewing your manuscript. And do not forget the graphical abstract needed for the Table of Contents!

Finally, we wish to inform potential authors that we are interested in the submission of timely and topical review articles.

We look forward to continue serving the solid-state chemistry and materials chemistry community in 2006 and beyond.

Best wishes for a successful and productive New Year.

Editor-in-Chief

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