

JACS Spotlights—Highlights of Recent Publications in the Journal

The *Journal of the American Chemical Society* introduces JACS Spotlights beginning with the first issue of 2012. Spotlights will highlight several recent publications in the Journal, summarizing the key findings but, more importantly, communicating the impact and significance of the work in a way that will be relevant to non-experts.

The vast majority of primary scientific literature is now read exclusively online, with researchers finding articles through search results directly related to their own work. With the loss of time spent thumbing through a journal in the library goes the possible serendipitous discovery of an article that is unrelated to the work at hand but may spark interest and attention along another compelling avenue of research.

JACS Spotlights aim to kindle the curiosity of chemists and other scientists about problems and questions both outside of and within their current focus. We hope that these Spotlights will allow readers to make connections between their own field of study, interfacing areas of science, and the real-world impact of basic chemical research. Toward this goal, the importance of the results will be highlighted in non-technical terms by professional science writers.

The Communications and Articles spotlighted are recommended by the Editors of the *Journal of the American Chemical Society*. Primary criteria for selection will be the strength of the reviews received, the novelty of the work, and the anticipated impact of the research. The first three JACS Spotlights detail discoveries ranging from enzyme activation by a small molecule assembled into fibers, which has links to Alzheimer's disease, to vesicles made from dendrimers that may be used to encapsulate and deliver therapeutic molecules, to a new NMR method that will allow scientists to rigorously study membrane proteins, which are fundamental to the extensive biological chemistry that occurs within cell membranes.¹

We hope that these JACS Spotlights will provide all readers of the *Journal of the American Chemical Society*—seasoned researchers and entering students alike—a view into the wide range of fascinating discoveries published in the Journal each week. We welcome your comments and feedback on this new feature.

Sonja Krane, Managing Editor

■ REFERENCES

- (1) JACS Spotlights. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2012**, *134*, 2.