

EDITORIAL

A Fond Farewell

Dear Colleagues,

I am stepping down as Editor-in-Chief of *The Journal of Physical Chemistry A and B* as of December 31, 2004. It is time for a new editor with new ideas and energy to take your Journal to the next level. We were very fortunate that Professor George Schatz accepted the offer of the Selection Committee to take on this responsibility. George has been a Senior Editor of JPC since 1993 and has served the Journal extremely well during this time. He knows where we are and where we ought to go.

I would like to give you a short history of JPC since my appointment as Editor-in-Chief. Twenty-four years ago, I asked you, the physical chemistry community, to assist me in turning JPC around. At that time, the Journal published under 4,000 pages a year, in one thin issue once every two weeks and had an impact factor below two. Due to your response to our call, the excellent job of the Senior Editors and the Editorial Board, and the hard work of the staff both at the editorial offices and in the ACS facilities, the Journal rapidly increased both in volume and in quality. Due to Journal binding problems of the increased size, the Journal began weekly publication. Its continued growth forced us in 1997 to split it into two journals, JPC-A (molecular physical chemistry) and JPC-B (material physical chemistry). It is still growing. In 2003, both Journals published over 28,094 pages. JPC-B now is the top Journal in the field of physical chemistry with the highest impact factor (3.679) and is among the top 10 most cited Journals in the field of chemistry as a whole. There is room for increasing this impact factor to an even higher number, now that we have the capacity. I am certain this number will increase due to your continued support.

At this time, I would like to thank the authors who believed that JPC is the home for their good papers and who stayed with us even during the hard time we passed through resulting from the rapid increase in volume and with the start of electronic submission.

My thanks go to the reviewers. They are the ones who kept the quality of JPC high. They worked hard and asked for nothing except the satisfaction that they are contributing effectively to our profession. No other profession has this kind of unselfish dedication.

The professional and hard working staff in the Editor-in-Chief's office deserve special thanks for their dedication over the years. They made my job so much easier. Ms. Delna Jacobs assisted in putting the Journal on a strong footing during the first half of the Journal's life under my editorship. Ms. Davine

Henderson helped with the second half, as well as helping me move the Journal from UCLA to Georgia Tech in an orderly fashion. They both trained some of the new staff in our office and in the other Senior Editor's offices as needed.

A special thanks goes to the present and previous members of the ACS Division of Physical Chemistry. They are the ones who demanded a change in JPC quality in 1980 and who supported us at all times by sending us their excellent work and at the beginning when we needed extra pages from the Board due to the sudden increase in volume.

I thank the excellent group of Senior Editors we now have, as well as those who served JPC previously. Their hard work and the very dedicated efforts of their staff during the rapid increase in volume and with the start of electronic submission a few years ago was what got us through. The Journal has since added 50% more offices and will be adding more offices next year to manage the manuscript load. We thus expect the handling time to decrease further. The Letter section, thanks to Professor Kamat, is now moving very rapidly and is expected to grow both in volume and in quality.

I am also thankful for the assistance of the Advisory Board, for their critical and constructive ideas all along and for sending us their good manuscripts. The staff in the different JPC offices are the heart of the operation. They all served JPC admirably well, in particular during hard times. The assistance that we have received from the ACS staff, both in Washington and in Columbus, was one of the main reasons that we were able to move JPC to where it is today. They have always accepted our requests and offered many good ideas that were extremely helpful. Last, but not least, I thank the administration of the Chemistry Departments both at UCLA and at Georgia Tech for being such generous and hospitable hosts for the Journal during its residence at these two institutions.

Finally, my best wishes go to JPC. It has a lot of competition now, but with the new Editor-in-Chief and the support that he and the Senior Editors will get from you and from the ACS, I am sure that the Journal will continue to move forward.

Truly yours,



Mostafa A. El-Sayed
Editor-in-Chief