

EDITORIAL

With the beginning of the New Year, I would like to take this opportunity to tell you about some of the transitions in the Journal, as well as features that have been added, and some new things that will be coming up soon. This is the 110th anniversary of the founding of the Journal in 1896, and in celebration of this, we are adding new pages to the Journal web site, including brief biographies of the seven Editors and information about the most highly cited articles from the past.

Thanks to the hard work of Reviewers, Authors, Editors, and Staff, 2005 was a busy and productive year for the Journal, with over 7000 papers received and over 30,000 pages published. Fortunately, this activity has taken place at a time when we have been able to add new offices and maintain the efficiency of our existing offices, such that the handling of manuscripts has not deteriorated. Thus, the mean time between receipt and acceptance for regular articles is about 12 weeks (averaging JPC-A and JPC-B) and that for letters is 5 weeks. The Publications Division in Columbus has also maintained their excellent productivity, such that the mean time between acceptance and publication on the web is only 5 weeks for articles and 2 weeks for letters. We owe a great deal of thanks to the staff in each of the editorial offices and in ACS Publications for maintaining these excellent publications statistics. I am also pleased that the quality of the publications continues to improve, with the journal impact factors being 2.64 for JPC-A and 3.84 for JPC-B.

Three of the Senior Editors stepped down in 2005: Charles Knobler at UCLA, Martin Gruebele at UIUC, and Art Nozik at NREL. These Editors served the Journal for a long time, and I would like to express my gratitude to them for their hard work. Fortunately, we have been able to add several new Senior Editors, including Bridgett Barry at Georgia Tech, Gang-yu-Liu at UCD, Tim Minton at Montana State, Jim Lisy at UIUC, Sarah Tolbert and Ben Schwartz at UCLA, Anne McCoy at The Ohio State University, and most recently Cathy Murphy at South Carolina. I am really pleased to see that these new Editors have quickly gotten their offices running well.

Several new features were added to the Journal during the past year. In July we added Table of Contents graphics for the Letters submissions to the Journal as an experiment to see if authors might want to use this capability for all submissions. We are still assessing this situation, so please send me your opinions. We have also added biographical information and an optional photo for the authors of Feature Articles and Review Articles. The JPC web site has a number of new or updated pages, including a list of the most accessed articles, catalogs of special issues, feature articles, and cover art, and a revised *Journal of Physical Chemistry A&B Facts*. In addition, we extensively revised the Instructions to Authors and Scope of the Journal, combining what was two documents into one and completely rewriting the instructions. We are gradually phasing out paper submission, so the instructions are now oriented for web submission, with a number of tips for using Paragon.

Speaking of Paragon, the ACS will be switching to a new author interface, which will be known as the ACS Paragon Plus Environment, sometime this year, so when this takes place, the interface will have a new "feel" and users will be prompted to supply additional information. This will be a big change for all the staff at the Journal, so I hope you will bear with us in getting used to this new system. Ultimately, this promises to provide more complete information concerning the status of each manuscript and to process manuscripts with greater efficiency, so I hope that the ACS Paragon Plus Environment will be popular.

Finally, I should note that *The Journal of Physical Chemistry* will be listed on MEDLINE, the online bibliographic database of the National Library of Medicine's MEDLARS system, starting in 2006. This will provide greater visibility for our authors to the biomedical community.

George C. Schatz
Editor-in-Chief