

### JACS Policy on Manuscript Processing

In the past decade the *Journal of the American Chemical Society* has seen a very significant increase in research results submitted that has resulted in a near doubling of manuscripts received since 1994 (see Figure).

This situation reflects both the vitality and the diversity of contemporary chemistry. Increases in such areas as materials chemistry, nanoscience, supramolecular chemistry, and computational chemistry, as well as all aspects of biological chemistry, are particularly noticeable. There has also been a significant growth in international submissions. All indications are that these trends will continue.

However, this good news and “embarrassment of riches” have also created some problems. Peer review is stretched to the limit. Reviewers are overburdened and have less time to provide the careful, thoughtful reviews that our authors and readers of *JACS* expect. Processing time is increasing, despite the benefits of electronic submission and handling. Authors are frustrated by delays in decisions, particularly when their manuscripts are ultimately declined.

To assist our authors, as well as to benefit our readers, *JACS* is instituting a new procedure in manuscript processing. **A substantial number of manuscripts will be declined by the Editors of *JACS* without formal peer review.** Manuscripts that fall into one or more of the following categories will be declined without review:

- the science does not meet *JACS* standards;
- insufficient data are provided to properly substantiate the claims and conclusions made;

- closely related work has already been published and few, if any, new insights are provided;
- the paper is a routine extension or minor technical improvement of research already published;
- the work is narrowly focused and not of broad, general appeal to the diverse, contemporary readership of *JACS*;
- the manuscript is a resubmission of a paper which has been previously declined, without the addition of adequate new science.

Editors will consult with a member of the *JACS* Board of Editors and/or Editorial Advisory Board in arriving at their decision. The members of the Board of Editors accept full responsibility for all decisions about manuscripts. The final responsibility for acceptance or declination rests with the Editor.

This streamlined and more efficient procedure will aid our authors. It will provide a more rapid decision, usually within a few days rather than weeks, for those manuscripts that are clearly considered inappropriate for *JACS*. It will enhance the acceptance ratio of manuscripts sent out for peer review. It will also benefit the scientific and chemical communities and the readership of *JACS* by further improving the quality and excellence of the *Journal*. Finally, it will provide some relief to the already overburdened, but critically important, peer review community.

Peter J. Stang, Editor  
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