

## Editorial

### Fastest publication of organic research

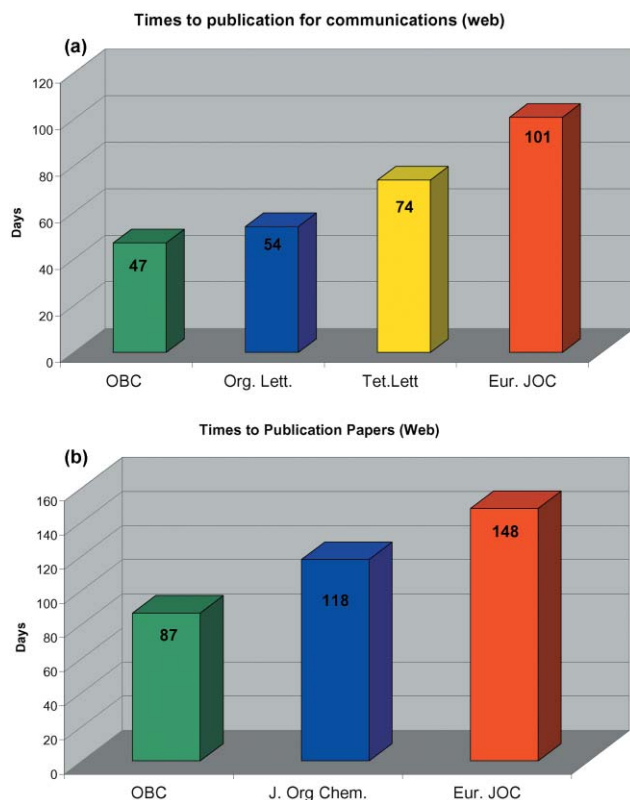
We are proud to report that the publication of research in *OBC* has been consistently faster than its competitors both for communications and full papers since its inception. This is thanks to fast and thorough peer review, dedicated editorial staff and technical innovation throughout the publication process. It has been these superior publication times, that have made *OBC* the ideal home for the most exciting work in the field, and set it apart from

its competitors. Communications are typically published a whole week faster than its closest competitor *Organic Letters*, at a speedy 47 days from submission to publication on the web. Full papers are published an impressive four weeks faster than the closest competitor, *Journal of Organic Chemistry* at just 87 days to publication on the web. These fast publication times go hand in hand with high standards. *OBC* is committed to publishing work of the highest quality and as a result our rejection rate is over 50%. Our speed of publication is illustrated in Fig. 1, which

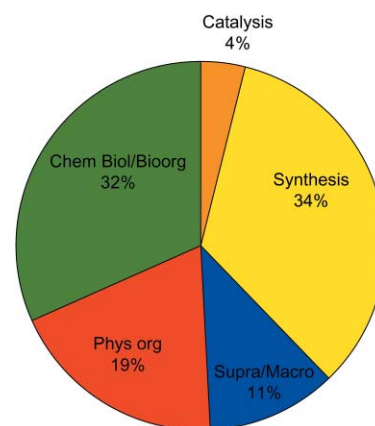
shows the time in days, from receipt to publication on the web for communications and full papers in *OBC* and competitor journals. In the January 2004 Editorial<sup>1</sup> we reported faster publication times than other journals and are very pleased to report that this speed has continued.

### Broad coverage

The remit of *OBC* continues to be to bring together molecular design, synthesis, structure, function and reactivity in one journal. We believe we have fulfilled this remit and offer a balanced coverage to our readers. This is illustrated in Fig. 2.



**Fig. 1** Times to publication. Times from receipt to electronic publication are the mean time in days for the period January–July 2004. Data are shown for: (a) *Communications* – all Communications published in *Organic & Biomolecular Chemistry* and *European Journal of Organic Chemistry* (issues 1–15, 2004), Letters published in *Organic Letters* (issues 1–15, 2004, alternate letters from alternate issues), Short Communications published in *Tetrahedron Letters* (issues 1–29, 2004, alternate communications from issues 1, 5, 9, 13, 17, 21, 25 and 29). (b) *Papers* – papers published in *Organic & Biomolecular Chemistry* and *European Journal of Organic Chemistry* (alternate papers from issues 1–15, 2004), papers published in *Journal of Organic Chemistry* (issues 1–15, 2004, alternate papers from alternate issues).



**Fig. 2** The subject breakdown of articles published in *OBC* between January and September 2004.

We recently told you about our highlights so far.<sup>2</sup> Look out for further top *OBC* papers in *Chemical Science* and its new sister publication *Chemical Technology*. These RSC publications aim to draw together the best papers published in RSC journals on a monthly basis. A number of papers promoted in this way have since gone on to be covered in publications such as *Science* and *Nature*. **‘To date I have published two papers in *Organic & Biomolecular Chemistry* and the process works great’** says Brad Smith, Professor of Chemistry at the University of Notre Dame, Indiana, USA. ‘The RSC is clearly

working hard to promote the papers that appear in its journals.' *OBC* readers have the benefit of receiving *Chemical Science* bound into the print version of the journal helping them to remain up-to-date with developments from all areas of chemical science research. More details about these publications can be found at: [www.rsc.org/chemicalscience](http://www.rsc.org/chemicalscience) and [www.rsc.org/chemicaltechnology](http://www.rsc.org/chemicaltechnology).

*OBC* continues to publish excellent **Emerging Areas** and **Perspectives**. This issue contains the Emerging Area *New chiral anion mediated asymmetric chemistry* by Jerome Lacour and Richard Frantz and the Perspective *Bioorthogonal organic chemistry in living cells: novel strategies for labeling biomolecules* by Herman Overkleeft *et al.* All Emerging Areas published in *OBC* can be found at [www.rsc.org/OBC/EmergingAreas](http://www.rsc.org/OBC/EmergingAreas) and all Perspectives at [www.rsc.org/OBC/Perspectives](http://www.rsc.org/OBC/Perspectives). We encourage you to take a look.

Looking forward, 2005 brings us many new ventures from the RSC: –

### New look

You will have noticed that *OBC* has a striking new look for 2005. The new modern cover design will enhance the impact of the featured cover artwork and produce a more eye catching journal.

### New journals

This summer, *Organic & Biomolecular Chemistry* readers will have free access to the online versions of the RSC's two new multidisciplinary journals. *Molecular BioSystems* will be a high impact monthly chemical biology journal, with a particular focus at the interface between chemistry and the -omic sciences and systems biology. A key feature will be 'Methods' – short primary research articles reporting new methodology. [www.molecularbiosystems.org](http://www.molecularbiosystems.org) has further details. The second journal, *Soft*

*Matter*, will be a high quality journal publishing research into soft materials, including complex fluids, with a particular focus on the interface between chemistry and physics. It will provide a forum for the communication of the generic science underpinning the properties and applications of soft matter. [www.softmatter.org](http://www.softmatter.org) has further details.

### New books

The first books in the new RSC Biomolecular Science Series will be published in 2005. This series has Professor Stephen Neidle as its Editor-in-Chief and will provide an authoritative insight to research at the interface between chemistry and biology.

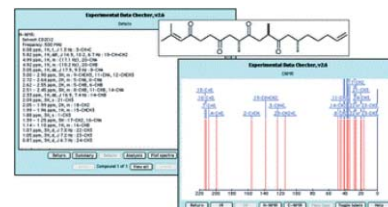
### Supporting our authors and referees

The RSC has developed a number of tools to help our authors and referees through the publication process.

ReSource provides authors and referees with a single web account for their publishing activities.<sup>3</sup> Referees can use ReSource to download files for manuscripts they have been asked to review and link directly to the correct report form to write their report. In addition, they can access information about the outcome of articles they have reviewed previously. ReSource provides a homepage where referees can view and update their contact details and research profile. Authors can use ReSource to view and access all the information and tools they need to submit their manuscripts online. ReSource provides manuscript tracking and proofing facilities. Authors are also able to access a list of their previous manuscripts and for published articles collect their free PDF reprints and link to the online articles ([www.rsc.org/resource](http://www.rsc.org/resource)).

A recent collaboration with the Unilever Centre for Molecular Science Informatics (at the University of

Cambridge, UK) has resulted in the **Experimental Data Checker** – a java applet which analyses experimental data. Its aim is to provide helpful information which an author can use to improve a paper, a referee can use to check a paper and a reader can use to analyse a paper. A study of this was published in *OBC* last year.<sup>4</sup> We encourage all authors to try this service which is available at [www.rsc.org/is/journals/checker/run.htm](http://www.rsc.org/is/journals/checker/run.htm).



Finally, we would like to express our thanks and gratitude to everyone who has supported *OBC* by contributing excellent papers and providing valuable and speedy referees' reports. The reputation of the journal and, ultimately its success or failure, is dependent on the work submitted by supportive authors and the reports provided by dedicated referees.

As always, Editorial Board members and staff welcome suggestions as to how the journal might be improved or enhanced further. We wish you all every success in 2005.

Professor Ben Feringa, Chair  
Editorial Board

Dr Caroline Potter, Managing Editor

### References

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