

## Editorial 2000

As Editor-in-Chief, I would like to thank the Chemical Community for the very warm reception which *Organic Letters* has received. Having completed the first volume, it appears that *Organic Letters* is on track to becoming the anticipated, exciting, state-of-the-art venue for the rapid disclosure of significant research in all areas of organic chemistry, including bioorganic and medicinal chemistry, physical and theoretical organic chemistry, natural products isolation and synthesis, new synthetic methodology, and organometallic and materials chemistry. It is "exactly where you want to be!"

I would also like to thank the Associate Editors, the Managing Editor, and their Editorial Assistants for their careful, discerning management of the peer review process. Thanks, of course, goes to all those who have already contributed important *Organic Letters* and to those who have provided the very timely manuscript reviews which have gotten us off to such an excellent start. Since May 17, when the *Organic Letters* Web site went live, we have published over 600 papers on the Web and in 13 print issues, totaling 2200 pages. Approximately 56% of these have been from the U.S., 18% from the Pacific Rim (12% from Japan), and 20% from Europe.

Thanks also goes to the ACS Publications Division for their Herculean efforts to develop the Web initiatives which have facilitated the very fast turnaround from submission to publication. For the first 10 issues the median time from acceptance to publication is 13 days. Importantly, Letters are published on the Web within 48 hours of galley approval by the authors. We are working toward shortening the time from submission to Web in 2000. However, to do so will require the continued goodwill of our reviewers. We need your help! Rapid (and thorough) evaluations are a critical component in improving the speed of publication.

All of us are also grateful for the support from the SPARC (Scholarly Publishing & Academic Resources Coalition) libraries. Their assistance has been vital to the ACS effort to produce truly affordable, high-quality publications.

Submission of manuscripts via the Web has been enthusiastically adopted by many authors. Currently approximately 65% of our manuscripts are submitted electronically. We hope that in the future even more authors will take advantage of the Web submission process, thereby greatly expediting publication of their work. I would, however, remind our

authors that although we encourage electronic submission, we accept conventional submissions on paper. In either case, the Web template can be very helpful in laying out your manuscript.

All of us at *Organic Letters* have learned a great deal during the first six months. The ACS Web staff has, and continues to, worked tirelessly to improve the Web submission process. We now have a new server and an improved manuscript template. Supporting Information submitted either in Word or WordPerfect is immediately converted into pdf to facilitate the review process. The ACS staff in Columbus also continues to streamline the journal production process. For example, we anticipate that a faster color processing procedure will be in place in 2000.

*Organic Letters* has been indexed by *Chemical Abstracts* from its inception. In addition, the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) has recently started including *Organic Letters* in *Current Contents* and *Science Citation Index*. The ISI coverage will also extend back to the first issue.

Looking forward to 2000 and beyond, I am delighted to report that Eiichi Nakamura (University of Tokyo) has agreed to join us as an Associate Editor. His experience and expertise will add great breadth to the areas of synthetic methodology, organometallic chemistry, and theoretical chemistry. We also anticipate that an editorial office in Japan will stimulate additional *Organic Letters* submissions and manuscript reviews from the Pacific Rim.

To augment the close relationship between *The Journal of Organic Chemistry* and *Organic Letters*, Dale Poulter has agreed to continue in his role as Associate Editor, while at the same time serving in the new post of Senior Editor of *The Journal of Organic Chemistry*. This cross association of editorships will ensure the continued hallmark of excellence established under the outstanding leadership of Clayton Heathcock. Certainly all of us at *Organic Letters* eagerly look forward to working with Peter Stang, the new Editor-in-Chief of *The Journal of Organic Chemistry*.

As you will see in this issue, the Guidelines for Authors have been significantly updated and a checklist has been added. Several points are worth highlighting. First, my colleagues and I strongly recommend that authors suggest potential reviewers. At the time of submission, authors may also suggest to the Editor-in-Chief specific Associate Editors to handle their manuscripts. Second, although we do not

require Supporting Information, it is both encouraged and welcomed. We remind the Community that by publishing in *Organic Letters*, authors are expected to make any newly described procedures or methods available in a timely fashion to members of the scientific community upon request. Concerning compound characterization, authors should include a general statement, usually as a footnote, describing in detail the method(s) for characterization of all new compounds. We also encourage authors to deposit their crystallographic data with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre (CCDC) to facilitate data sharing.

Finally, as we enter the new millennium, all of us at *Organic Letters* are fully committed to expediting the publication process to the fullest extent possible, while maintaining the outstanding tradition of excellence characteristic of the Communications previously found in *The Journal of Organic Chemistry*.

**Amos B. Smith, III**

*Editor-in-Chief*

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