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Editorial

In response to my request for feedback in a recent editorial, I received a critical letter from a very committed process chemist, who questioned a number of issues fundamental to this journal. One of these questions related to the scope of the journal—was there too much organic chemistry in *Organic Process Research & Development*, and were many of the organic chemistry articles really process related? When the scope of the journal was being discussed by the American Chemical Society in the mid-1990s, the pressure to begin a new journal came almost entirely from organic process research chemists, so it was natural that the remit of the journal would be primarily organic chemical; this was one of the reasons the word “organic” is in the title. As we enter into the third year of publishing, it is clear that the journal’s scope is widening—and I welcome this. It is good to see articles related to analytical issues, impurities, crystallisation and polymorphism, chromatography on a large scale, mixing and selectivity, hazard evaluation, etc. However, I would like to receive more articles in a similar vein, and ones on issues which have not received much attention in the journal, such as process validation, regulatory issues, and environmental problems and how they are solved. In particular, articles on chemical engineering issues related to scale up are invited.

As you will see from the masthead page, the size of the editorial advisory board has been increased, and at our meetings this year many of these issues will be discussed. We have tried to involve chemists and engineers from large and small companies, from academia as well as industry on the advisory board. The aim, of course, is to improve the journal—one of the ways forward is to expand the scope of the journal! After all, the chemical development function is very interdisciplinary.

Again, I would invite readers to suggest authors for articles (particularly review articles) which we can commission, or to suggest themes which may form the focus of a single issue in the future. For example, automation in process R&D, crystallisation and polymorphism, and chemical hazards are three topics which have already been proposed and are being followed up. It really helps the editors if specific authors or companies can be targeted. I welcome your ideas for improving the journal—keep the letters and e-mails flowing.

T. Laird
Editor

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