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## Supramolecular Chemistry

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### Editorial

Jonathan L. Sessler<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, University of Texas, Austin, TX, USA

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## Editorial

As readers of *Supramolecular Chemistry* are surely aware, Profs. George Gokel and Jerry Atwood stepped down as editors over one year ago. In an effort to honor their accomplishments and to continue providing what is an invaluable service to the community, Dr Philip A. Gale and myself have agreed to take over the editorial responsibilities. Meanwhile, the journal itself has been acquired by the Taylor and Francis group. This new publisher, along with Dr Gale and myself, are committed to making this journal the very best that it can be. While we have a long way to go before we reach this goal, we have managed over the last year to iron out a number of the bugs that had come to plague the journal. We thus feel that we are in a position to re-launch *Supramolecular Chemistry* this year with the explicit aspiration of reaching a new level of excellence that we hope will make all associated with journal, publishers, authors, reviewers, readers, library subscribers, and original founders, Profs. Gokel and Atwood, proud. To be successful we need your help, enthusiasm, and support; we hope you will provide it.

At this time, it serves no purpose to belabor the problems of the past. On the other hand, it is important to point out that some of the more serious self-defeating practices of the previous publisher have been discontinued. Most importantly, the counter-productive lawsuits against the American Institute of Physics and American Physical Society have been dropped. Further, the seeming predatory pricing policy has been set aside in favor of one that accurately reflects the price of producing and distributing a specialty journal of this type. In support of the "let's not gouge the community" cost reduction policy, to which the current publishers are fully committed, Dr Gale and I have agreed to discharge our editorial duties without personal compensation. We are going to do our best to make this journal a success and, again, we invite you to join with us in doing the same.

How can you help? First, and foremost, consider *Supramolecular Chemistry* as a venue for publishing

your papers of interest to the macrocyclic, molecular recognition, and generalized supramolecular communities. To make this possible and attractive as far as is reasonable, we are expanding the scope of acceptable papers and are now willingly accepting not only communications, full papers and reviews, but also personal account-style overviews and short, follow-up type papers that serve to flesh out in greater detail work that was originally published in communication form in a high impact, general audience journal. Such papers could play an important role in terms of fleshing out for the community details, insights, or opinions that might not be accessible within the gap opened up between an initial communication and a subsequent full paper of overarching review.

Another way you can help, is by subscribing personally or asking your library to do the same. Budgets for books and journals are obviously tight and getting tighter. Unfortunately, in spite our best efforts to cut costs, it remains a truism that without a sufficient subscription base journals such as this will simply cease to exist.

Finally, we ask you to bear with us yet a bit longer as we continue to make things better. The publisher and we have implemented a number of changes and more are in the wings. Among the most important changes, is a move away from the so-called flow system of publishing. There are now six set issues per year and a well-defined production schedule that relies of proofs being set and corrected in house, as opposed to overseas. This insures that libraries and other subscribers will get a known amount of product for their subscription price. It also insures that papers will appear in print within 3–5 months from the date of acceptance. While this represents progress, the hope and expectation is that the number of issues will increase in the near future, which would allow the time between acceptance and publication to be reduced yet further.

Another change we are making to decrease publication times is a move towards electronic

submissions and reviewing. While submissions will continue to be accepted in hard copy or via the *Supramolecular Chemistry* website (<http://www.supramolecularchemistry.info/>) authors are encouraged to submit manuscripts to the editors directly in the form of PDF files. Authors submitting their papers electronically are asked to provide not only the names and affiliations of suggested referees but also their e-mail addresses. These and other authors are also requested to deposit X-ray data, as CIF files, with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Base prior to submission. This will allow referees to access it easily while permitting all crystallographic papers to be reviewed quickly by a crystallographic referee.

Of course, quick, thorough and fair refereeing is the backbone upon which any journal rests. To the extent that all of us can help fulfill this function, the better off *Supramolecular Chemistry* will be. Specifically, if you are called onto review a paper, we would appreciate a quick response by FAX or e-mail. In exchange, we, the editors, promise not to make any given individual do more than his or her share. Because of this need for balance, we will not always be able to honor authors' requests for suggested reviewers, although we will try.

In addition to taking steps to speed up the rate of publication, we are pleased to announce that Taylor and Francis has agreed to integrate color into articles when it is warranted. No longer will color plates appear only at the back of the journal. A move is also underway to produce the cover illustration in color. Meanwhile, suggestions for cover artwork are welcome and should be submitted to the editors in both black and white and color versions, at least for the near term.

While efforts are being made to improve the appearance of the hard copy version of *Supramolecular Chemistry*, starting with this issue it will also be available in electronic form. Currently, Taylor and Francis is making *Supramolecular Chemistry* and its other journals fully accessible to institutional subscribers. All an individual working

at a subscriber institution needs to access the online version is the subscription code, which should be available from his or her librarian. This policy, which represents a very positive change relative to the previous publisher, is described more fully at URL [http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/gandb\\_faq.html](http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/gandb_faq.html). It is hoped that the availability of an online version, coupled with the ongoing practice of posting the titles of soon-to-appear papers on the *Supramolecular Chemistry* web site, will make it easier to find and cite papers that appear in the journal. Meanwhile, the policy of granting 25 free hard copy reprints to the corresponding author is being retained.

Finally, on behalf of my fellow editor, Dr Gale, I want to stress that this is *your* journal. The two of us have taken on this challenge because we want to help solidify and strengthen the community. Fortunately, we are being supported by a dedicated cadre of editorial advisors. Members of this board are split roughly 50:50 between new members who have recently agreed to assist and those whose service to the previous editors remains deeply appreciated. This appreciation is also extended to those members of the Editorial Advisory Board who have rotated off as the result of the present change in editorial administration. The community is grateful to you.

Like the editors, the members of the Editorial Advisory Board look forward to helping you and the community. Please feel free to contact any member of the board or the editors directly if you have comments or concerns. Specific suggestions for improving the journal, as well as for special issues, are always welcome. Without your help and input we won't know what we are doing right and what we are doing wrong. We might also miss opportunities to serve the supramolecular chemical community that go beyond the traditional boundaries of journal editing.

Dr Gale and I are excited about the re-launch of *Supramolecular Chemistry* and look forward to serving you as best we can. We appreciate your support and are grateful for your help.

Jonathan L. Sessler  
[suprachem@mail.cm.utexas.edu](mailto:suprachem@mail.cm.utexas.edu)