

# Editorial

## Happy New Year

This is the first issue of EPJ D in 2001, the new century in the new millennium! This is therefore appropriate timing for introducing some modifications in the journal. However, there is no need for a revolution. EPJ D is a healthy journal, which receives an increasing flow of excellent papers, but it is our continuing concern to adapt the journal to the evolution of science and to publish a better journal. So what's new in 2001?

By examining the list of topics covered by EPJ D, you will find changes. To emphasize a few active fields, *new sections* have been added so that physicists working on these subjects can find immediately the papers belonging to their domain. For example, there is presently a large community working on quantum gases and Bose-Einstein condensation. For this community and those working on laser cooling of atoms, molecules, ions, we have created a section *Laser Cooling and Quantum Gas*. In the same manner, to satisfy those interested in quantum information, entanglement, quantum cryptography, we have extended the Quantum Optics section to *Quantum Optics and Quantum Information*. A new section has also been created for *Ultrafast Phenomena* and for the processes occurring in *High Intensity Fields*. The introduction of this section is triggered by the rapid development of femtosecond lasers and their numerous applications ranging from time-resolved spectroscopy of biological molecules to X-ray generation. Another new and exciting field, bringing even more interdisciplinary into our journal is molecules of biological interest in the gas phase. Finally, the section *Nonlinear Dynamics* has been polished. It is now the natural place to publish results dealing the fundamental aspects of chaotic systems and the manifestation of these phenomena in Atoms, Molecules and Optics. However, these new sections do not mean that EPJ D is now only devoted to a few fashionable subjects. Papers dealing with more traditional topics are obviously highly welcomed and they should find their place in one of the other sections.

We have also decided to have regular publication of *topical issues*. We plan to publish two topical issues each year. In 2001, the topics of these issues will be *Clusters* and *Femtosecond Spectroscopy*.

Another evolution concerns the *Rapid Notes*. Although they have existed since the start of the journal and they correspond to a regular demand of our community (fast publication of short papers, less than 4 pages, describing important advances), the EPJ D Rapid Notes were not very popular. We wish to make them more attractive. First, by increasing the rapidity of publication: our aim is to publish a Rapid Note *3 months at most* after its reception by the editorial office. For this purpose the Editors, the Editorial Office and the Publisher will give the highest priority to these Rapid Notes. Second, by using a different lay-out to separate and distinguish them from the other papers of the same issue.

Furthermore, if you wish to communicate with an editor it will be no longer necessary to look for his e-mail address. To achieve better connections between authors and editors, every editor can now be reached through the electronic address `first.name.last.name@epjd.org`. The mail will be directly forwarded towards his personal address.

Finally, we expect that 2001 will be the real beginning of a new type of publication that combines the possibilities of the printed journal and of the *on-line edition*. First as soon as a paper is accepted and proofread, it will appear on the on-line version by using the Digital Object Identifier (DOI) system, and can therefore be quoted. There are however additional advantages. For example, it is now possible to have a short paper published in the printed journal and an extended version on-line, with supplementary material (tables, figures, complements) and possibly various multimedia documents. Obviously, if there are additional materials in the on-line version, this will be mentioned on the printed version. Technical information is available hereafter.

We hope that all these small advances will make the journal more attractive. However, what makes a journal alive are really the authors. Therefore, we wish you many results, many discoveries and we hope that you will provide us with lots of excellent papers. *Happy New Year!*

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