

The two Editors-in-Chief of EPJ D are now Tito Arecchi and Jean-Michel Raimond. Ingolf Hertel's term came to its end and he will be now acting as an External Advisor. He should be warmly thanked for the work he accomplished during the hard times of the journal's creation. The present success of EPJ D owes a lot to his dedication and to the continued efforts of Gilbert Grynberg, whose untimely death has been a loss for physics as well as for this journal.

Jean-Michel Raimond is at the Université Pierre et Marie Curie and the Institut Universitaire de France, in Paris. His research is performed at the Laboratoire Kastler Brossel of the École Normale Supérieure, on cavity quantum electrodynamics, at the fulcrum between fundamental quantum mechanics studies and the development of quantum information techniques.

Editorial

The *European Physical Journal D* is now a mature publication. It attracts an ever growing number of submitted papers. The quality of the published articles is well-recognized. This attractiveness is due in a large part to the efforts of the associate editors to expedite, as far as possible, the refereeing processes and to interact in a profitable way with the authors. We wish to take this opportunity to express here our gratitude to the editorial board and to the editorial office.

We think that EPJ D can play an important role in the life of the atomic, molecular and optical physics community in Europe. The European Community initiatives (research or training networks, in particular) are fostering scientific exchanges all over Europe and very positively encouraging researchers' mobility. The *European Physical Journal* has certainly the vocation and the possibility to represent this burgeoning activity in many fields (for instance, among others, quantum information or quantum gases).

The future extension of the European Community is also certainly a major opportunity for the development of EPJ D. We hope that the very active research going on in the new member countries will contribute significantly to the growth and reputation of our journal.

Having the ambition to actively participate in the European scientific life does not mean that the realm of EPJ D is restricted to Europe. We will do our best to develop the visibility of EPJ D in other parts of the world and to convince our colleagues from abroad that our scientific quality and our way of handling papers makes us an effective channel for the rapid publication of important results.

We therefore think that EPJ D could be a reference journal for our community. The special issues, twice a year, are particularly suited to this goal. They will, for instance, be used to reflect the activities of the European networks.

Besides the special issues, the editorial board will solicit articles presenting perspectives on new and recent trends in the different areas covered by our journal. These papers will of course meet the standards of originality and importance which are ours, but will be designed to provide a broader view on a rapidly evolving or new field. They will be intended to be reference papers and to be the seeds for a subsequent flow of publications.

One key point for the success of the journal is the speed of publication and the good relations between the editorial board and the authors. The dedication of the editorial board and the "On-Line First" distribution of papers, with a quotable DOI, a few days only after acceptance, put us in a good rank according to this criterion. We will certainly do our best to reduce processing times even further. Special care will be taken for the Rapid Notes section. Accelerated procedures have already been set-up for papers exchanged between Europhysics Letters and EPJ D. We will also, with the help of the production office, improve the on-line services.

Finally, a journal exists only because it has a readership. We would therefore like to thank you very much for your faithfulness. We would also like to encourage you to contribute to the improvement of our journal by your suggestions, remarks or complaints, which will always be welcome.

F.T. Arecchi and J.M. Raimond