

From The Editor

Welcome!

The Chemical Educator is not a static journal, but an evolving journal. . . . Your suggestions, criticisms, and comments are welcomed by the editors.

On behalf of myself and the Board of Editors, I would like to welcome you to the first issue of *The Chemical Educator*, the online journal devoted to the issues of chemical education. *The Chemical Educator* will use the volume-issue format common to most scholarly journals, and completed volumes will be released annually or biannually on CD-ROM for archival purposes. Articles appearing online will be abstracted by Chemical Abstracts Service. Publication on the World Wide Web is a fairly unique delivery mechanism for a journal (although, perhaps this is less true of late), and it offers several advantages when compared to delivery via print. These include quick and timely dissemination of articles, immediate availability of supporting material, full-search capabilities for the current and all back issues of the journal, and the ability to include full-color graphics, video clips, and animations. Moreover, through forums, it can provide a communication link between its readers and authors.

Although *The Chemical Educator* uses a delivery mechanism that is not limited by page-printing costs, we are concerned about ensuring the quality and accuracy of the material published. For this reason, every manuscript submitted for publication in *The Chemical Educator* is reviewed by at least three referees with expertise in the area it represents. Of further concern is that the journal be a useful tool for busy educators. The ability to search topics online is intended to support this concern. Furthermore, we are providing, on the abstract page for each article, links to all supporting files. For this issue these files contain computer templates, video clips, animations, survey results, and student handouts. These are

provided online to help expedite the preparation of the material for use in your laboratory or classroom. Finally, direct links from each article to a forum thread are included to facilitate discussion and to provide a simpler and quicker process for questions to authors.

The Chemical Educator home page highlights several features beyond the links to the body of the journal. First, the forums can be accessed from this page, as well as the article pages. The forums are moderated to ensure that the information posted is pertinent to chemical education and to prevent “spamming.” They are also threaded to make it easier to follow discussions that are of interest to you. We have included a forum for high school issues, as well as a more general forum. We hope that the forums will be used to add improvements or extensions to the information provided in the articles, to assist discussion of important topics related to chemical education, and to foster collaboration among readers with similar interests. Second, from the home page you can visit our “help” page, which allows downloading of the utility files necessary to view *The Chemical Educator* on screen and to obtain answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs) about the journal and access to it. Third, we are providing a location for posting and searching available positions in industry and academia. Fourth, you can visit an area containing book descriptions and link to forum threads to read or contribute comments about those books. Fifth, the “CHEDR Exchange”, an FTP site for depositing and accessing public-domain chemistry software and useful utilities, can be accessed. Finally, you can link from our home page to those of our sponsors.

The content of *The Chemical Educator* includes several unique features. To provide a backdrop for modern chemistry, articles pertaining to the history of chemistry, the people and events that define chemistry’s evolution, are included. Also, tutorial articles covering modern instrumentation or techniques and intended to provide information in a format readily usable in the classroom or laboratory are presented. Two columns, “Chemistry on the Internet” and “Progress in Practice” will appear in each issue. The former describes useful chemistry sites and chemical information available on the World Wide Web; the latter addresses the language, techniques, and history of chemical pedagogy. The purpose of the “Progress in Practice” column is to help provide a common method of discourse whereby chemistry teachers, chemistry learners, and chemical education researchers can understand and benefit from each other’s activities and experiences. We hope that these features are useful and interesting to both you and your students.

A column that will not be a regular feature of *The Chemical Educator* is this one, “From the Editor”. Mostly, I will offer my comments and opinions alongside yours—on the forums.

The Chemical Educator is not a static journal, but an evolving journal. We intend to make use of new Internet technology as it develops, while still making sure that readers with less than the newest can benefit from what is presented. Our most important reason for creating this journal is to serve your needs. Your suggestions, criticisms, and comments are welcomed by the editors. Because much of this technology is new and because specialized equipment is often needed for its implementation, the Editorial Office is available to help authors with any presentation difficulties or questions. You can contact us by e-mail, post-office mail, FAX, or telephone. Additionally, technical questions about the journal or its Internet connection will be handled by email from the journal’s help page or you can contact us directly at chedr@springer-ny.com.

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Editor-in-Chief