

IS MORE BETTER?

In a society obsessed with conspicuous consumption and consumerism, one can easily succumb to the idea that growth equates with progress. The necessity for significant increases in corporate profitability has led to a 'bottom line' mentality that often precludes investments in research and development essential for future viability. Clearly, growth in any form must be evaluated for its implications, both short-term and long-term, before any assessment of its value can be made. In this context, after deliberation and with some trepidation, the editors announce the expansion of the *Journal of Computer-Aided Molecular Design* from four to six annual issues.

The pressure for this increase emerges from the acceptance of JCAMD by its community and the rising numbers of manuscripts submitted for publication. As JCAMD has demonstrated its commitment to quality, both in science and in presentation, the quality of papers received has improved as well, resulting in a higher acceptance level. In many ways, this growth reflects that of computational chemistry and the increased number of application areas. A backlog of manuscripts awaiting publication has resulted, with an ensuing delay between acceptance and publication. As the tempo of research accelerates on almost a weekly basis, such delays are increasingly unacceptable. By elimination of the special issues, the current four-issue format could accommodate the increase in manuscript number; however, the editors feel strongly about the educational value of these issues focused on special topics and plan to continue devoting one issue per year to a symposium, or special topic with invited manuscripts. The two additional issues per year will thus facilitate more timely publication as well as eliminate the current backlog of accepted manuscripts. This is our justification 'for more.'

There are, of course, some negatives associated with this increase. First, and foremost, is the increased subscription cost that will accompany your renewal for next year. This increases the budgetary pressure on libraries in a time of decreasing budgets and will force some hard decisions regarding relative utility. Our publisher has assured us that this increase will reflect the actual increase in costs associated with two more issues, and we hope to see actual reduction in cost per journal page reflecting some economies of scale. We sincerely believe that the increase in scientific output justifies our growth as one of the few established journals dealing with molecular modeling.

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