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ScienceDirect
Journal of Molecular Graphics and Modelling 26 (2007) 595
Journal of Molecular Graphics and Modelling
www.elsevier.com/locate/JMGM

Preface

This is my first editorial, since taking over as an Editor from Jonathan Essex in August 2005. So without further delay let me record my thanks for his hard work. It has been remiss of me not to do so earlier. What has prompted me into belated editorial action is the current *Special Issue* in honour of Professor W. Graham Richards.

In September 2006, the Molecular Graphics and Modelling Society organized a scientific meeting at St. Katherine's College, Oxford University to celebrate the 67th birthday of Professor W. Graham Richards and in recognition of his contributions to the field of molecular modelling. It was an excellent meeting, covering a wide range of topics, reflecting Graham's many significant influences on modern day computational chemistry and biomolecular modelling. One of Graham's contributions was his editorship of this journal, the *Journal of Molecular Graphics* (as it was then), from 1984 to 1997, a period when the journal flourished. Today, the journal is enjoying unprecedented numbers of submitted manuscripts and its impact factor indicates that it is one of the leading international journals in its field. So it is particularly appropriate that we should devote a special issue of the journal in honour of Graham. It has been a particular personal pleasure to edit this issue, as the very first lecture I attended as an undergraduate chemist was given by Graham.

I will not attempt to describe here Graham's science, as in this issue Graham himself looks back on his career to date and relates some of the landmarks much more eloquently than I could. An article by Peter Willett presents a bibliometric analysis of the journal, describing some of the high points to date and substantiating with hard numbers my claim above that the journal is one of the leaders in its field. The bulk of the issue comprises new research articles from some of Graham's former graduate students and postdocs, and the quality of science therein is indeed a fitting testament to the seminal role Graham has played in the development of computational chemistry in its broadest sense.

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Available online 10 April 2007

1093-3263/$ – see front matter
doi:10.1016/j.jmgm.2007.04.003