

## Editorial for January 2013 for *JPC A/B/C*

As we begin the New Year, we want to extend our best wishes to the authors, readers, and reviewers of *The Journal of Physical Chemistry (JPC)*. 2012 was an active year for the Journal, with over 6000 papers published in *JPC A/B/C*. We redefined the journal sections in March, and the new sections have been very well received. Also, we had an increase in Impact Factors for all parts of the journal, including an impressive debut initial impact factor for *JPC Letters* of 6.213!

With the transition to 2013, there are a few new features that we will be rolling out. Many reviewers have commented to us that requiring all figures to appear in the back of submitted manuscripts is a relic of the days when papers were prepared and reviewed by hand. So to make things easier in the electronic era, we are now asking authors to embed figures in their submitted manuscripts. Another change that is coming in 2013 is improvement of LaTeX manuscript processing, particularly for figures. Some of our authors who regularly use LaTeX are working with ACS Publications to help with these improvements. We look forward to implementation of the improvements soon.

2012 was the first full year in which the Deputy Editors have been in place for *JPC A/B/C*, and we are pleased with these new positions. The Deputy Editors are associated with specific journal parts, with Anne McCoy in charge of *JPC A*, Sharon Hammes-Schiffer handling *JPC B*, and Cathy Murphy steering *JPC C*. Anne, Sharon, and Cathy are involved in soliciting Feature Articles, organizing Special Issues, coordinating marketing activities, sponsoring conferences, and handling appeals and ethical issues for manuscripts in their journal part. As a result, processing efficiency has increased, and journal content has improved through editor-selected highlighting of articles, such as in geochemistry and biophysical chemistry.

*JPC Letters*, under the able guidance of Deputy Editor Prashant Kamat, is now in its third year, and we have received enormous support from the community since the journal launched in 2010. This outstanding support led to our very high debut impact factor, and we will continue to do what we can to increase that value in the future. Thanks to the hard work of the editors and their office staff, as well as others in ACS Publications, we continue to maintain a ~40 day average time from submission to publication (including pagination). We have Perspectives in every issue (67 published in 2012) that discuss the developments and current state of an emerging research theme. With each Perspectives series, there is an overview Editorial written by editors or authors who are experts in the field. In addition to video presentations associated with Perspective articles, the *JPC Letters* Perspective Videos, all authors are encouraged to contribute an audio narrated presentation, in which slides associated with a paper are included. This new multimedia feature, which was earlier introduced through slideshare.net, is moving to the journal homepage (<http://pubs.acs.org/JPCL>) in January 2013. We thank our contributors, reviewers, and readers for making *JPC Letters* such a successful addition to the *JPC* family.

Special Issues published this year in *JPC A/B/C* have included Festschrifts for Harold Scheraga (*JPC B*), A. R. Ravishankara (*A*), Herman van Leeuwen (*A*), Jorn Manz (*A*), and Richard Mathies (*B*). Also, we published symposium issues on Chemistry and Materials Science at High Pressures (*C*) and on the Madrid Conference on Femtochemistry (*A*). We occasionally hold Special Issues on particular topics that are not part of a symposium, and in 2012 we created a Special Issue on "Systems Understood through Multiscale and Enhanced Sampling" (*B*). We also developed Virtual Issues on TiO<sub>2</sub> nanostructures and on Quantum Molecular Magnets, which can be found on our *JPC A/B/C* webpages. Authors or readers who have ideas for possible Special Issues or Virtual Issues are encouraged to contact one of us.

The Feature Articles published this year have covered a wide range of topics in physical chemistry, including nanoparticle synthesis and energy transfer, organic constituents on aerosol particles, time-resolved studies of hydrogenase models, studies of energetic materials, dye-sensitized solar cells, Lewis acid–base pairs on oxide surfaces, HCl oxidation of RuO<sub>2</sub>, dynamics of S<sub>N</sub>2 reactions in the gas phase, chiroptical properties, SERS, IR and Raman line shapes of ice, using gold to make C–C bonds, self-assembled monolayers on curved surfaces, Li ion batteries, theories of chemical bonding, and magnetic nanocrystals. The Feature Articles in *JPC* provide an excellent opportunity for authors to summarize and highlight a substantial body of their work for the general physical chemistry community. These articles are an invaluable resource for students and nonexperts who want to learn about an area of research covered in the Journal from the point of view of an expert who has made great contributions to physical chemistry. We encourage authors to contact us if you are interested in contributing a Feature Article to *JPC A/B/C*.

The *JPC* Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/JournalofPhysicalChemistry>) has become the *go to place* for information on the latest happenings in the *JPC* community. The page continues to have new content added weekly and provides access to special issues, videos, and information of interest to physical chemists.

We continue to enjoy a wonderful partnership with the Physical Chemistry Division of the ACS. This year, we cohosted a lively and well-attended reception at the ACS National Meeting in Philadelphia that included the awarding of the 2012 Physical Chemistry Division Awards. Currently, we are working together to introduce the annual *JPC* Lectureships, which honor the contributions of three investigators who have received their Ph.D.'s within the past decade and made major impacts on the field of physical chemistry in the research areas associated with each journal part (*JPC A/B/C*). The Lectureships will take place at the Fall ACS meeting, and we will continue to cohost the Physical Division reception.

We were delighted that the CBS television show *Big Bang Theory* featured a *JPC A* cover in the background of several

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scenes starting in January of 2012. The cover has moved into Sheldon's new office, and we hope they will continue to display the cover in the future. If you missed it, check out: [http://www.cbs.com/shows/big\\_bang\\_theory/photos/81363/season-5-episode-14/81359](http://www.cbs.com/shows/big_bang_theory/photos/81363/season-5-episode-14/81359).

To accommodate continued growth for *JPC A/B/C*, we were fortunate to add Daniel Crawford of Virginia Tech as a new Senior Editor this year. We now have a team of 30 Senior Editors with a wide range of expertise who continue to keep the peer review process running smoothly and efficiently. We are grateful to them and their Editorial Assistants for their work in getting thousands of submissions reviewed each year.

Donna Minton, our Managing Editor, continues to provide invaluable service to the journal, basically keeping the operation humming so that the rest of us can worry about manuscripts and peer review. We thank the head office staff in Evanston—Davine Henderson, Julie Rossetti, Barbara Sydow, Vincent Rezaei, Felicia Miller, and Catherine Corliss—for their tireless work to make the journal run smoothly and efficiently. We are grateful to Betsy Foran, LeeAnn Pannebaker, and Harriet Bradham for their terrific work in managing the Deputy Editor offices for *JPC A*, *B*, and *C*, respectively.

Finally, we would like to take a moment to remember Frederick T. Wall, the fourth Editor-in-Chief of *JPC* (1965–1969), who died on March 31, 2010, at the age of 97, and Bryce Crawford, the fifth Editor-in-Chief of *JPC* (1970–1980) who died September 16, 2011, at the age of 96. Wall, who was a faculty member at Illinois, UCSB, UCSD, and other universities, became the first Executive Director of the American Chemical Society in 1970. Crawford, who was at the University of Minnesota, was honored in a *JPC* Special Issue published in 1984 (vol. 88, issue 3). Biographies of Wall, Crawford, and the other *JPC* EICs have recently been posted on the *JPC* Facebook page. Additional biographies of famous physical chemists will be posted on the *JPC* Facebook page throughout the year.

We are looking forward to a productive 2013, and we hope that all of you, our authors and reviewers, have a prosperous and successful year!

Anne B. McCoy, Deputy Editor

Sharon Hammes-Schiffer, Deputy Editor

Catherine J. Murphy, Deputy Editor

George C. Schatz, Editor-in-Chief

## ■ AUTHOR INFORMATION

### Notes

Views expressed in this editorial are those of the authors and not necessarily the views of the ACS.