



# A Fresh Look at Materials Science

By *Esther Levy*\*

2003 was a year of records for *Advanced Materials*: a record number of manuscript submissions (ca. 1700), a record number of articles published (> 400), a record number of PDF downloads from Wiley InterScience (1 300 000), and a record ISI Impact Factor (6.801). Around 21 % of the communications submitted originated from North America, 18 % from Europe, 56 % from Asia, and the remaining 5 % from the rest of the world, thus confirming the truly international character of the journal. Interestingly, in terms of published articles the distribution was a little different: North America 32 %, Europe 29 %, Asia 34 %, and Rest of World 2 %. The fact that a higher proportion of manuscripts from North America and Europe were accepted for publication compared to manuscripts from other areas is perhaps an indication that authors from these countries are more familiar with the journal and the required quality of work.

In line with the growing attractiveness of *Advanced Materials* as a medium for the publication of our authors' best materials science papers, we have been working hard with our typesetters and graphic designer to further improve the physical appearance of the journal. Thus as you turn the pages of this, the first 2004 issue, of *Advanced Materials* you will notice a number of changes to the look of the journal, ranging from a cover with easy-to-read headlines to improved layout and styling of the articles. The table of contents has also been modernized to further assist the reader's search for articles of particular interest. The first page is now devoted to the cover articles and up to three other exceptional articles published in the issue. This is followed by masthead information, a list of EarlyView articles available online but not yet in print, and a table of contents with enhanced features. These include color coding of the article types, keywords that indicate the general topic covered in the article, and figures presented in a larger format and, where possible, in color (at no charge to the author). Therefore, effective immediately, we would encourage our authors to supply suitable color images for their table of contents' entry.

Those of you who have a paper copy of the journal in your hands will also notice that the supplementary journal *Chemical Vapor Deposition* is no longer bound into *Advanced Materials*, although the journals are still delivered together. This is the first step towards the complete independence of *Chemical Vapor Deposition* in 2005, a move that is being made in response to the increasing popularity of the journal and a strengthening author base and manuscript flow. For more details on our future plans for this journal turn to the Editorial by Michael Hitchman on page 7 of *Chemical Vapor Deposition*.

These enhancements to the journal follow hard on the heels of the relaunch of Wiley InterScience. The improvements made to this online platform include a more intuitive layout, extra features, and an enhanced search engine. It is now also possible for our authors to publish supplementary information online, in the form of Word documents or even short movie clips.

We hope you welcome these changes and we look forward to sharing another exciting and successful year with you.

With best wishes



Dr. Esther Levy

PS. As the 2002 cover competition proved so popular (issue 16/02 displayed the winning cover, representing work by López and co-workers entitled "Nanorobotic Manipulation of Microspheres for On-Chip Diamond Architectures") we have decided to run another one for the 2003 covers. It is shaping up to be a tough competition with 36 covers (and inside covers) to choose from. To place your vote please go to the journal home page ([www.advmat.de](http://www.advmat.de)), click on "cover competition" in the right-hand menu bar, and select your favorite image. Voting is open until 31st January and each voter is in with a chance to win either a Wiley-VCH book or a free subscription to *Advanced Materials*.

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