Two new interdisciplinary journals strengthen *Lab on a Chip*

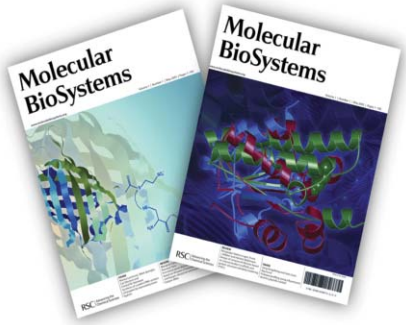
DOI: 10.1039/b506356f

As the traditional boundaries between chemistry, biology and physics become ever more indistinct, the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) is committed to publishing significant research from across the interfaces of these disciplines. *Lab on a Chip* (LOC) was one of the first RSC journals to publish work from right across these disciplines and the journal has met with great success as a result, moving from four, to six, to 12 issues per annum in a relatively short space of time. The success of LOC has now led to two further journal launches and in line with the RSC's commitment to disseminating work at these subject interfaces, *Lab on a Chip* subscribers will be granted **free online access** to both of these exciting new interdisciplinary journals.

Molecular BioSystems focuses on the interface between chemistry and the -omic sciences and systems biology while *Soft Matter* looks at soft materials in physics, chemistry and biology.

We are delighted to announce that the first issue of *Molecular BioSystems* (http://www.rsc.org/molecularbiosystems) is now published. Issue 1 is free online to everyone and *Lab on a Chip* subscribers will also have free online access to future issues. *Molecular BioSystems* is a high quality interdisciplinary journal publishing novel and challenging chemical biology research including high-throughput techniques and chip- and array-based technologies. In addition to Papers and Communications, *Molecular BioSystems* publishes Methods, Reviews of topical areas of research, Highlights of developing areas of research, and personal Opinions on topics of current interest to the community.

Articles in the first issue of *Molecular BioSystems* include a report of a protein immunosensor based on single walled carbon nanotube forests with electrochemical detection of enzyme labels (p. 70), a Communication on affinity purification of RNA polymerase (p. 53), a Method for profiling bacterial lipopolysaccharides using electrophoretic and mass spectrometric strategies (p. 46), and a Review of functional gene-discovery systems based on libraries of hammerhead and hairpin ribozymes and short hairpin RNAs (p. 27).



Launching in June, *Soft Matter* (http://www.rsc.org/softmatter) will also address an interdisciplinary and growing field. The articles will be from Physicists, Chemists, Biologists and Chemical Engineers and will appeal to a similarly broad range of readers. The scope includes soft matter assemblies; nanotechnology; surfaces, interfaces and interactions; synthetic methodology; theory, modelling and simulation. Colloids, polymers, gels, surfactants, biological systems and complex fluids will feature strongly.

The first issue of *Soft Matter* includes a Highlight on the use of double emulsions in a multiple-phase microfluidic system (DOI: 10.1039/b501972a), a Review on modelling of the flow of complex fluids in channels (DOI: 10.1039/b500866b), a Communication on pattern formation in film instabilities (DOI: 10.1039/b500864f), a Full Paper on the solution and surface assembly of shell crosslinked nanoparticles (DOI: 10.1039/b417653g), and a Comment from the Nobel Laureate Pierre-Gilles de Gennes on the future and origins of soft matter. Many Advance Articles are available now on the website; *Lab on a Chip* subscribers can read these and future articles in *Soft Matter* free of charge.

Lab on a Chip and other established RSC journals will continue to attract and publish excellent chemical biology and soft materials research of relevance to the scope of each journal; we welcome your submissions at http://www.rsc.org/resource. In addition, *Molecular BioSystems* provides a new forum for the publication of novel work at the interface between chemistry and the -omic sciences and systems biology, and *Soft Matter* will promote the communication of fundamental science underpinning the properties and applications of soft matter. We encourage you to start making use of your free access to *Molecular BioSystems* as soon as possible, and to look out for the launch of *Soft Matter* next month.

With very best wishes

Andreas Manz (Chair, *Lab on a Chip* Editorial Board)

Harp Minhas (Editor, *Lab on a Chip*)

Caroline Evans (Editor, *Molecular BioSystems*)

Carol Stanier (Editor, *Soft Matter*)