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STATEMENT OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

(Revised February 2015)

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Scope and Editorial Policy

Accounts of Chemical Research is a journal of concise articles describing recent research developments in chemistry, biochemistry, materials science, nanoscience, and related fields. Each Account is directed not only to specialists in the field but also to a broad range of scientists who wish to keep abreast of the best current research in fields other than their own. Readability by the nonexpert is therefore essential. Most manuscripts are submitted after invitation by the Editor-in-Chief, but unsolicited manuscripts are also considered.

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A typical *Account* discusses a topic of intense interest to the author and focuses primarily on the author's own experimental or theoretical results. Unpublished data may be included, but only to a minor extent. Articles should present salient experimental discoveries and theoretical results, interpret their significance, establish perspective with respect to earlier work and to contemporary research by other investigators, evaluate the present state of the subject, and cast a glance to the future.

Another welcome type of article examines critically a question of current interest and draws new generalizations or new perspectives from the evidence. The author should be an expert in the field. A good introduction, including a historical orientation, is critical. Terms and concepts unique to the research area must be carefully explained or defined. A short section of concluding remarks should discuss the broader significance of the work, view it in perspective, and mention applications or future prospects. *Accounts* looks with favor on styles of presentation somewhat less formal than those that prevail in much scientific writing. Comprehensive reviews do not fall within the mission of *Accounts*.

Commentaries

These brief opinions include theoretical implications, mechanistic interpretation, significance of data, or definitive experiments and should not be laudatory or for establishing priority. Controversial commentaries are welcome, as are ones expressing opinions contrasting with those in published *Accounts*. Commentaries are substantially shorter than articles, and biographical data are not included.

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Conspectus

The conspectus is an enhanced and expanded one-page abstract of approximately 400–500 words that follows the structure of the manuscript and includes one helpful and eye-catching graphic. It is highlighted to stand out from the article and serves two principal purposes:

- To summarize the Account for the general reader who may not have the time or deep interest in the material to read beyond the conspectus
- To entice the reader into reading the rest of the Account

The conspectus should summarize the reason for the work, the most significant results, and the conclusions. Each conspectus should include motivation (why every chemist should care about the problem and its results), techniques used, results and discoveries, and conclusions and implications.

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A statement describing any financial conflicts of interest or lack thereof is published with each manuscript. During the submission process, the corresponding author must provide this statement on behalf of all authors of the manuscript. The statement should describe all potential sources of bias, including affiliations, funding sources, and financial or management relationships, that may constitute conflicts of interest (please see the <u>ACS Ethical Guidelines</u>). The statement will be published in the final article. If no conflict of interest is declared, the following statement will be published in the article: "The authors declare no competing financial interest."

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Submission: Proposals versus Manuscripts

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and final decisions regarding a subsequent invitation to submit will be forwarded by the Editor-in-Chief. The editorial board will not consider proposals from authors whose work has been recently highlighted in the journal (typically, the past two years), except under special circumstances. Key to a successful proposal is a convincing statement that addresses the following questions: Why this topic? Why these authors? Why now?

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- A short (~400-word) description of the focused topic, remembering that an *Account* is not a comprehensive review nor a mini-review but rather a concise summary and analysis of a topic in which the author is an expert. Ideally, this description might be a draft of the Conspectus (see below) and be accompanied by an informative graphic.
- A list of 5–10 lead references that might form the foundation of the final manuscript. Typically these are ones from the author's own laboratory, but others may be included.
- Notes about recent reviews on this topic written by the submitting authors or others and how the proposed Account would differ in focus.

- Any additional comments that might address the following questions:
 - o Why this topic? Is this subject of interest to a broad range of scientists?
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Preparation of Manuscripts

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Manuscripts are limited to 6000 words. This includes the text, references, author names, biographical sketches, tables, and figure legends. Do not include the conspectus or author addresses in your count. Authors will be expected to abide by this rule and to submit a statement from the corresponding author indicating the word count of the article and how it was obtained. Articles with word counts over 6000 words will be returned to the authors for editing before going through the review process.

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