

Cite this: *Chem. Sci.*, 2012, **3**, 15

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EDITORIAL

# Chemical Science - the best new journal

DOI: 10.1039/c1sc90051j

Welcome to the first issue of 2012. In this Editorial we review an exciting 2011 and look forward to a critical 12 months for *Chemical Science*.

It is over three years since the idea of launching a new RSC flagship journal started to gather momentum. The proposal was as a result of international feedback, namely that the RSC should publish a journal that could compete for the very best research in chemistry. As we move into 2012, with *Chemical Science* thriving, we are delighted with what we have achieved but know it is still early days. The Editorial team (Fig. 1) remain committed to the original goal of ensuring *Chemical Science* becomes a leading

journal for the publication of research of exceptional significance.

So what have we achieved in 2011 you might ask? Here are some of the highlights that we think merit a mention...

## The Award

Everyone likes to win awards and in publishing we are no different. 2011 was a very special year for *Chemical Science* as we were named the winner of the prestigious ALPSP (Association of Learned

and Professional Society Publishers) award for best new journal. In a competition that was open to all new journals, up to three years from launch, *Chemical Science* fought off tough opposition from over 30 entries, including *Nature Communications*, to steal the show. Acting RSC Managing Director, James Milne (Fig. 2), was on hand to collect the award on behalf of RSC Publishing.

We would like to thank everyone who has helped contribute to the journal's ever growing success.

Christopher W Bielawski University of Texas at Austin, USA	David A Leigh University of Edinburgh, UK
Stephen L Buchwald Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA	Kopin Liu Academia Sinica, Taiwan
Thomas Carell Ludwig Maximilians University of Munich, Germany	Jeffrey R Long University of California, Berkeley, USA
Benjamin F Cravatt The Scripps Research Institute, San Diego, USA	Wonwoo Nam Ewha Womans University, Korea
Christopher C Cummins Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA	Colin Nuckolls Columbia University, USA
Kazunari Domen University of Tokyo, Japan	Teri Odom Northwestern University, USA
Matthew Gaunt University of Cambridge, UK	Matthew J Rosseinsky University of Liverpool, UK
Hubert Girault Federal Polytechnic School of Lausanne, Switzerland	F Dean Toste University of California, Berkeley, USA
	Haw Yang Princeton University, USA

Fig. 1 *Chemical Science* Editorial Board.

*'launched to present high quality cutting edge research across the chemical sciences, it has achieved swift success. There are very close links with the community and the journal is clearly defined by the science and the user.'*  
ALPSP Award citation

## The Quality

To ensure the future success of *Chemical Science* our quality goals remain unchanged. The Associate Editors have been working hard to enforce even higher standards; only the very best research made it into an issue in 2011 and this will continue in 2012. To ensure we offer the fastest service to authors and do not overwork our dedicated referees, we will continue to triage science that is not of suitable quality or out of the journal scope.

Over the last 12 months, high quality science has appeared in *Chemical Science*



**Fig. 2** Acting Managing Director, James Milne collects the ALPSP Best New Journal Award.

bringing a wealth of expertise in their respective research areas.

## The Growth

*Chemical Science* has continued its remarkable growth in 2011, with a 300% increase in submissions observed since the journal opened in January 2010. These articles originated in over 25 countries and this increasing popularity is a clear sign that the profile of the journal continues to rise.

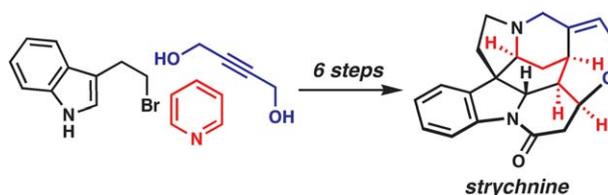
We are delighted with the balanced international feel of the journal in 2011 (Fig. 4). *Chemical Science* is now established as one of the choice premier journals for leading researchers from the USA, UK, China, Germany and Japan. Future activities will capitalise and build on these successes while also embracing opportunities that arise in other key countries.

## The Visibility

The profile of the journal continues to rise and we are delighted with all the positive

in abundance. It is not possible to cover all the articles in this Editorial but one in particular has made a significant impression. In April we published an Edge article by Professor Christopher Vanderwal and David Martin (University of California, Irvine) entitled 'A synthesis of strychnine by a longest linear sequence of six steps' (DOI: 10.1039/C1SC00009H) (Fig. 3). This has been the most read article in *Chemical Science* in 2011 with double the number of downloads compared to the article ranked second. It was no surprise, therefore, that the synthesis was widely covered in the broader scientific press.

the scientific community, two new Associate Editor appointments were made early in 2011. We were delighted to welcome Professor Christopher Bielawski (University of Texas at Austin) to handle submissions in the field of polymer science, and also Professor Wonwoo Nam (Ehwa Woman's University, Korea) to handle submissions in the field of bio-inorganic chemistry. Both have been excellent additions to the Editorial Board,



**Fig. 3** Graphical Abstract from 'A synthesis of strychnine by a longest linear sequence of six steps' by Christopher Vanderwal and David Martin.

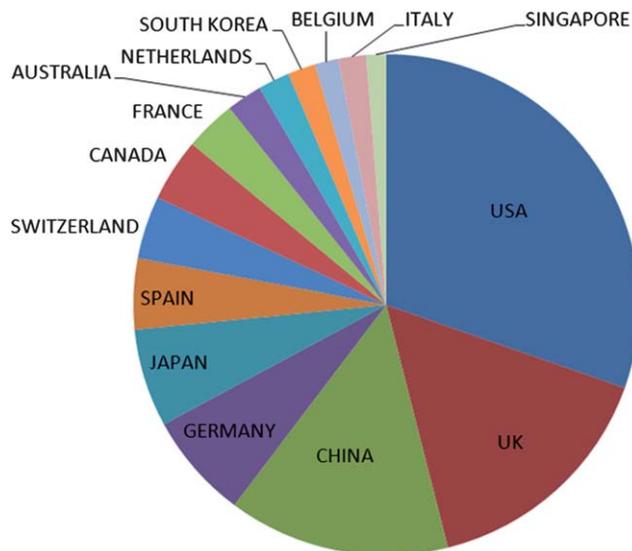
*I am keen to publish my work in Chemical Science as the quality is very high.*

Professor Shunichi Fukuzumi,  
Osaka University

## The Editors

In 2011, our team of Associate Editors worked even harder to deal with your articles as quickly and efficiently as possible because we realise that high quality customer service is important to any successful new journal. Through their dedication to the role, the average time from receipt to publication is 65 days. Coupled with the recent launch of 'Accepted Manuscripts', *Chemical Science* is certainly one of the fastest journals in the general chemistry arena.

In response to the growing number of submissions and specific feedback from



**Fig. 4** Geographical origin of articles published in *Chemical Science* in 2011.



Fig. 5 The participants of the first international *Chemical Science* Symposium.

feedback we have received from both readers and authors alike. An extensive marketing campaign has continued throughout 2011 and we have sponsored a number of events at leading conferences. Plans are already in place for a similar level of activity in 2012. In addition, both the Managing Editor and Deputy Editor will be travelling throughout 2012 showcasing the journal at numerous conferences around the world.

We were delighted in 2011 to hold the first one day *Chemical Science* Symposium (Figure 5). The event took place in Nanjing, China, covering supramolecular chemistry and organic materials. A host of international researchers, complemented by local speakers, spoke over the course of the day. The 100 strong audience were inspired by a wide range of high quality science, all of which was focused at the interface between chemistry and biology or chemistry and materials. We would like to thank the speakers for giving up their time to present in Nanjing and also our local hosts for helping to stage the event.

### The ISACS conferences

The *International Symposia on Advancing the Chemical Sciences* also continued in

2011 with ISACS 4, 5 and 6 held at MIT, Boston; University of Manchester; and Peking University, Beijing. As in 2010, a world-class line-up of 16 or so plenary speakers were invited to each event. In a first for the symposia series, these plenary lectures were accompanied by shorter presentations selected by the organising committee following oral abstract submissions. Additionally at ISACS 5, delegates saw the 2009 Nobel Laureates Professors Venkatraman Ramakrishnan and Thomas Steitz open the conference and receive their Honorary Fellowships from the RSC. The feedback from all three conferences was extremely positive and we were delighted with the success of the events in only their second year since launch.

*“There was unanimous agreement [amongst attendees] that this was one of the best conferences any of us have ever attended in the field. It was a spectacular success.”*

James K McCusker, Professor of Chemistry and Associate Chair for Research at Michigan State University

Plans are well underway for the 2012 symposia. The international nature of the series is very important and hence is reflected in the next three venues, now confirmed as Edinburgh, UK, Toronto, Canada, and Xiamen, China. The topics for two of the meetings will revert back to those covered in 2010 with ‘Challenges in Organic Chemistry & Chemical Biology’ and also ‘Challenges in Inorganic & Materials Chemistry’ on the menu. New to the ISACS scientific programme in 2012 is ‘Challenges in Nanoscience’, a very topical and interdisciplinary area of research and ideal, therefore, for the style of the conference. Keep up-to-date with the latest ISACS information *via* the new Twitter feed (<http://twitter.com/ISACSconference>), the website ([www.rsc.org/isacs](http://www.rsc.org/isacs)) or sign up to the ISACS newsletter.

### Read all about it

You can keep up to date with all the latest news and developments from *Chemical Science* in a variety of ways. Follow us on Twitter (<http://twitter.com/chemicalscience>) and the *Chemical Science* Blog (<http://blogs.rsc.org/sc>) or sign up for e-alerts or the *Chemical Science* newsletter (<http://www.rsc.org/alerts>)

## The Future

So what does the future hold for *Chemical Science*? As we move into our third year, we look forward to receiving our first partial Impact Factor. This is a significant milestone as we will get a feel for how well the journal is being read and cited since launch. Early indications are that we will certainly be challenging the top general chemistry journals in the field, after only 2 years. All this has been achieved by our commitment to publish high quality primary research complemented by a small number of thought provoking and insightful Perspectives and Mini-reviews.

We would like to close by thanking the most important people who have made *Chemical Science* so successful in such a short period of time. To our authors, thank you for publishing with us, we hope you were impressed with the service and will come back with future submissions of exceptional quality. To our referees, for delivering comments to our Associate Editors in a timely manner to ensure that the right informed decisions are made. Finally, to our Associate Editors for their commitment and dedication in maintaining the quality while delivering excellent customer service in a timely manner.

If you have any comments about *Chemical Science* we would be delighted to hear from you. These should be sent to [ChemicalScience-RSC@rsc.org](mailto:ChemicalScience-RSC@rsc.org).



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### RSC Conferences and Events 2012

The RSC organises a broad range of conferences and events to promote the advancement of the chemical sciences. Please visit the website for the most up to date listing: [www.rsc.org/events](http://www.rsc.org/events)

The major scientific meetings planned for 2012 include:

#### Challenges in Organic Chemistry and Chemical Biology (ISACS7)

12–15 June 2012, Edinburgh, UK  
[www.rsc.org/isacs7](http://www.rsc.org/isacs7)

#### Molecular Reaction Dynamics in Gases, Liquids and Interfaces (Faraday Discussion 157)

25–27 June 2012, Assisi, Italy  
[www.rsc.org/FD157](http://www.rsc.org/FD157)

#### Challenges in Inorganic and Materials Chemistry (ISACS8)

19–22 July 2012, Toronto, Canada  
[www.rsc.org/isacs8](http://www.rsc.org/isacs8)

#### Challenges in Nanoscience (ISACS9)

31 August - 3 September 2012, Xiamen, China  
[www.rsc.org/isacs9](http://www.rsc.org/isacs9)

#### 21<sup>st</sup> IUPAC International Conference on Physical Organic Chemistry (ICPOC 21)

9–13 September 2012, Durham, UK  
[www.rsc.org/ICPOC21](http://www.rsc.org/ICPOC21)

#### Inorganic Photophysics and Photochemistry – Fundamentals and Applications (Dalton Discussion 13)

10–12 September 2012, Sheffield, UK  
[www.rsc.org/DD13](http://www.rsc.org/DD13)

#### Lipids and Membrane Biophysics (Faraday Discussion 161)

11–13 September 2012, London, UK  
[www.rsc.org/FD161](http://www.rsc.org/FD161)

#### Directing Biosynthesis III (DBIII)

19–21 September 2012, Nottingham, UK  
[www.rsc.org/DBIII](http://www.rsc.org/DBIII)