www.publish.csiro.au/journals/env *Environ. Chem.* **2010**, *7*, i. doi:10.1071/ENv7n5_ED

New editor for atmospheric chemistry, and free open access for *Rapid Communications*

It is with great pleasure that we welcome Dr Jian Zhen Yu to the editorial team at *Environmental Chemistry*. Dr Yu, an atmospheric chemist from the Hong Kong University of Science & Technology (see biography below), has already had a long association with *Environmental Chemistry* as an author – she published a highly cited paper on water-soluble aerosols[1] in the very first issue of the journal, and in issue 4 this year she reported on oxygenated organic compounds and inorganic ions in particulates.[2] Dr Yu's appointment completes the *Environmental Chemistry* team of external editors comprising Jon Chorover, Peter Croot, Ralf Ebinghaus, Jamie Lead, and Kevin Wilkinson. The team has excellent complementary expertise, covering the major areas of environmental chemistry, and the necessary experience to make *Environmental Chemistry* the premier journal dedicated to reporting the chemistry of fundamental environmental processes and mechanisms.

With her relevant expertise and experience, Jian Zhen will primarily deal with topics in the important area of atmospheric chemistry. Atmospheric chemistry occupies an overreaching position in the environmental sciences, as demonstrated by two papers in the current issue. Xu et al.[3] report on iodine species in atmospheric aerosols along a path stretching from Shanghai to the Arctic Ocean. They use elemental mass spectrometry, sometimes coupled to ion chromatography, to describe iodine speciation patterns thereby providing solid experimental evidence that supports model predictions with implications for ozone depletion and climate change. Ahrens et al.[2] demonstrate the presence of perfluoroalkyl compounds and mercury, as a result of atmospheric deposition, in fish from pristine alpine lakes of southern France, and thus provide a clear example of the importance of atmospheric transport of pollutants and its influence on contamination in remote sites.

Free open access for Rapid Communications

The appointment of Jian Zhen to the editorial team coincides with the implementation of some significant changes for the journal. As discussed in a previous editorial, in addition to providing authors with a fair professional assessment of their manuscripts, we aim to make the submission and peer-review process as simple and fast as possible. We also endeavour to promote the rapid publication and distribution of truly novel ideas or observations so that they are given maximum exposure and can be immediately used by your peers. For these reasons, and beginning immediately, we provide fast-track handling and free open access for *Rapid Communications* published in *Environmental Chemistry*.

Presentation prize winners

One of the advantages of the external editor structure recently adopted at *Environmental Chemistry* is the increased opportunity to interact with the scientific community, for example, at conferences where we can see first-hand the exciting developments in a field. *Environmental Chemistry* is keen to be an active part of conferences, in particular to encourage young researchers by providing prizes for outstanding presentations. Jamie Lead recently attended the 5th International Conference on the Environmental Effects of Nanoparticles and Nanomaterials (Nano2010) at Clemson University, South Carolina where he awarded *Environmental Chemistry* prizes for Outstanding Young Scientist Presentations to Rui Ma (Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburg) and Dominic Kaiser (University of Frankfurt). Congratulations to them both! If you are organising a conference in the environmental sciences in the next year or so, please contact me or another member of our editorial team to discuss how *Environmental Chemistry* might be involved.

Kevin A. Francesconi, Editor-in-Chief

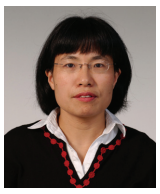
[1] H. Yang, J. Xu, W.-S. Wu, C. H. Wan, J. Z. Yu, Chemical characterization of water-soluble organic aerosols at Jeju Island collected during ACE-Asia. *Environ. Chem.* **2004**, *1*, 13. doi:10.1071/EN04006

[2] Y. C. Li, J. Z. Yu, Composition profile of oxygenated organic compounds and inorganic ions in $PM_{2.5}$ in Hong Kong. *Environ. Chem.* **2010**, *7*, 338. doi:10.1071/EN09167

[3] S. Xu, Z. Xie, B. Li, W. Liu, L. Sun, H. Kang, H. Yang, P. Zhang, Iodine speciation in marine aerosols along a 15 000-km round-trip cruise path from Shanghai, China, to the Arctic Ocean. *Environ. Chem.* **2010**, *7*, 406. doi:10.1071/EN10048

[4] L. Ahrens, N. Marusczak, J. Rubarth, A. Dommergue, R. Nedjai, C. Ferrari, R. Ebinghaus, Distribution of perfluoroalkyl compounds and mercury in fish liver from high-mountain lakes in France originating from atmospheric deposition. *Environ. Chem.* **2010**, *7*, 422. doi:10.1071/EN10025

Biography



Dr Jian Zhen Yu is an atmospheric chemist in the Division of Environment and the Department of Chemistry at the Hong Kong University of Science & Technology. She received a PhD in Environmental Science and Technology (Atmospheric Chemistry program area) at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill in 1996. Her current research interests include: (i) developing analytical methods for atmospheric applications; (ii) characterising atmospheric aerosols; (iii) studying secondary organic aerosol formation mechanisms; and (iv) kinetic modelling of multi-phase atmospheric reactions.

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