

## Priming Your Research

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At the outset I'd like to say that I look forward to the challenge of helping guide the national journal *Aust. J. Chem.* into the future, with John Wade, and hopefully we will be able to aspire to the exceptional example of our predecessor, Curt Wentrup.

Many years ago when I joined the staff in Chemistry at the University of Western Australia, a senior colleague took me aside and gave me some great advice. Chief amongst this was the exhortation to not become bogged down in the same scientific rut, but to branch out into new areas of research. This, he suggested, would keep the job fun and lead to an enriching career in science; he, after all, changed direction on average every ten years! Engaging in a new area of endeavour is not without its pitfalls, chiefly the perception of grant reviewers that you lack sufficient expertise to prosecute the proposed new research.

In heeding my colleague's advice, I was struck by the feeling that reading primary review articles detailing the latest results in an area often didn't provide enough information on how to actually perform the potentially unfamiliar reaction, measurement or experiment. It's for this reason that a new type of article was introduced to *Aust. J. Chem.*, the Primer review. The intention is that these Primer reviews will provide an accessible point of entry into a topical area for lecturers, researchers, and students. Here you will find the solid background to the area, as well as the *how-to* with seminal references, that will provide a starting point for a deeper foray into the topic at hand.

The first of these Primers involves the area of *Molecular Electronics*; in particular, the fascinating history of its

development and some of the underlying fundamental concepts. A very topical subject driven by the demands of miniaturisation in the electronics industry. Paul Low and Santi Marqués-González (*Aust. J. Chem.*, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1071/CH15634>) have provided an excellent example of what the Primers hope to achieve, in my opinion. Indeed, Paul suggests, '*The Primer is an exciting format, certainly for the authors and hopefully for the reader as well, allowing opportunity to contextualise a research field to a new audience. The format allows emphasis to be focused on the crux of a problem or the essence of a research field, which is an excellent way to be reminded of the nature of the current challenges. As single molecule electronics enters, at least, its third renaissance, we were able to use the opportunity afforded by the Primer to take a look back at the history of the area, and hopefully use that to develop a line of reasoning behind some of the contemporary challenges and research problems that are the topic of so much interest today. We certainly hope that the reader will find the story we have told interesting, and enjoy reading it at least half as much as we enjoyed writing it.*' The Primer is available for download to all for the next six months.

So I ask the broader chemical community, academics, and industrial practitioners to think about their own area, favourite analytical technique or procedure and see whether they can distil it down to about ten pages with 50 references and illuminate the path for the novitiates. Interested parties can either contact the Editors-in-Chief directly or the Journal ([publishing.ajc@csiro.au](mailto:publishing.ajc@csiro.au)) to discuss their ideas.