

Environmental Chemistry: Editorial 2007

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Welcome to 2007 and Volume 4 of *Environmental Chemistry*. Since its inception just three years ago, the journal has grown and evolved considerably, and indications are that it's proving both a useful vehicle for authors, and a source of interesting ideas for readers. Overall, the unique form and flavour of *Environmental Chemistry* are taking shape, and the journal is starting to give 'a sense of definition to the field of environmental chemistry' (Peter Brimblecombe, University of East Anglia).

Our goal is to publish the chemistry of environmental processes, and we ultimately aspire to help scientists provide an accurate overall picture of the environment. As this picture emerges, our scope statement has been refined, and now reads

Environmental Chemistry addresses the chemical processes of the environment (solid Earth, hydrosphere, atmosphere, biosphere), aiming to facilitate links among these aspects of environmental science. Thus, papers that advance our understanding of the environment as an integrated earth system are particularly encouraged.

There have been several significant developments in the journal recently. Along with our scope, our format and layout continue to be refined and improved in response to critical feedback from authors, readers and referees. As you will see in the summarised Notice to Authors, we now request that authors include line numbers in their original submissions. Also new from issue 2 will be the inclusion of titles of papers in reference lists.

Growth of the journal has been evident in several areas: Our circulation and submissions have increased (the number of issues per year has grown from 3 in 2004 to 6 in 2006), the number of citations gathered by each article is rapidly increasing, and reference to *Environmental Chemistry* articles in popular magazines such as *New Scientist* is also becoming more frequent.

We've been listed in Thomson ISI Web of Science from Volume 2. While we will not be granted a published Impact Factor until 2008, it takes just a few minutes to determine that the average number of citations in 2006 to each paper published in *Environmental Chemistry* in 2004 and 2005 is already over 2 (our 'unofficial 2006 Impact Factor'!). Further, four *Environmental Chemistry* publications (refs^[1–4]) from 2005 are now listed in the Thomson ISI product, Essential Science Indicators.

In order to be as well informed as possible about the latest findings and research directions in environmental chemistry, I travel as often as I can to key conferences and research institutes, and continually seek feedback and opinions from all members of the journal's Editorial Board. This feedback frequently contains the comment that scientists now have to deal with vast amounts of information, making peer review, authoritative opinion and editorial organisation increasingly important.

In direct response to these comments we have begun publishing Research Fronts in *Environmental Chemistry*. A Research

New board members on why they joined

"Environmental Chemistry is an exciting new journal that is quickly establishing itself as a very high quality one, with an excellent series of Research Fronts that highlight the leading edge of research and knowledge in the chemistry of air, water, sediments and soils. No other journal provides this focus, nor is there any other journal that is taking the initiative to look strategically ahead on a regular basis at emerging issues in environmental science."

Mike McLaughlin

"The broad and important topic of chemistry of the environment deserves a high quality journal. Making the right decisions regarding the protection of the environment is of tremendous importance to all of us. Such decisions are totally dependent on a fundamental understanding of chemical processes governing the fate of pollutants in the environment."

Ole Hertel

"As a researcher in the area of ecotoxicology of man-made pollutants, I often felt the need for a vehicle that can not only provide in-depth chemistry but that is relevant to all – from scientific experts to the general public. I am very happy to see that Environmental Chemistry is fulfilling this role. The journal will be a useful tool for people from all walks of life – from students through scientists to policy makers. I look forward to contributing what I can by becoming a member of the Editorial Board."

Shinsuke Tanabe

Front is a cluster of papers in a rapidly developing or topical area. It includes an Opinion Essay, which outlines in general terms why the topic has become important, a Critical Review to summarise and analyse recent significant developments, and several Rapid Communications to provide a snapshot of current research directions.

Analysis of downloads and citations show that papers published as part of a Research Front are read and cited more widely than other papers in that issue. This is evidence that readers and authors see the value of papers published alongside those of their peers and/or competitors. Readers can easily move from one paper to the next on a related topic, with the whole series being drawn together by an enlightening Opinion Essay, and grounded by a critical and up-to-date overview of recent developments in a topic.

The first two *Environmental Chemistry* Research Fronts (Arsenic Biogeochemistry and Iodine Flux & Marine Aerosols) appeared in 2005, and a further four were published in 2006. Research Fronts planned for 2007 include Atmospheric Chemistry

at the Interfaces; Climate Implications; Environmental Cycling of Mercury; and Speciation.

As we advocate a ‘whole picture’ approach to environmental chemistry, we are particularly interested in science that crosses the ‘reservoirs’, such as biogeochemistry, bioavailability of compounds and environmental transport. Thus, new and growing areas such as SOLAS (the Surface Ocean Lower Atmosphere Study), which seeks to bridge the gap between marine and atmospheric research, are of interest to *Environmental Chemistry*. In a coming issue we will publish an opinion essay from Peter Liss about the evolution of SOLAS.

Our growth has also extended to personnel. I am very pleased to announce that our Editorial Board has now expanded to 22 members. While the role is essentially advisory, the Editorial Board members of *Environmental Chemistry* are strongly involved in guiding editorial direction and policy in the journal. Mike McLaughlin, Ole Hertel, Jonathan Williams and Shinsuke Tanabe are the new members. Their photos and biographies appear below, and some comments as to why they joined appear above. Further, some of you may have had the pleasure of dealing with our new Production Editor, Lauren Webb, who now deals with all aspects of publishing manuscripts after they are accepted for publication.

Finally, we are grateful to DuPont for their continuing sponsorship of *Environmental Chemistry*.

At *Environmental Chemistry* we are constantly seeking to improve the way we publish papers and deliver them to you, the reader. If you have any comments or ideas that may help us in these areas, I would encourage you to contact us at publishing.env@csiro.au.

I look forward to hearing from you in 2007.

Alison Green



References

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Meet the new board members

Ole Hertel



Ole Hertel is Head of Section at the National Environmental Research Institute, University of Aarhus, Denmark. His research interests are in the assessment of atmospheric deposition of nitrogen to marine and terrestrial ecosystems, and in the assessment of human exposure to air pollution. He received his M.Sc. from University Aalborg, Denmark, his Ph.D. from the University of Bergen, Norway, and his EBA from the Engineering College of Copenhagen. He is titular member of the IUPAC Division for Chemistry of the Environment.

University of Aarhus, Denmark

Mike McLaughlin



Mike McLaughlin is currently a Director of CSIRO's Centre for Environmental Contaminants Research and also a Professor in the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences at The University of Adelaide, Australia. He received his undergraduate training at the University of Ulster in Northern Ireland, and postgraduate degrees from Reading University, UK and The University of Adelaide. Mike's research interests are principally in environmental chemistry, specifically the behaviour and toxicity of nutrients and contaminants in terrestrial systems, the speciation and bioavailability of metals, and the assessment and remediation of contaminated soils.

CSIRO and University of Adelaide, Australia

Shinsuke Tanabe



Shinsuke Tanabe is an internationally acclaimed environmental chemist and ecotoxicologist in the field of Persistent Toxic Substances (PTS). He received his M.Sc. from Ehime University (1975) and Ph.D. from Nagoya University (1985), Japan. He has authored nearly 330 original scientific publications and 70 book chapters and articles, both in English and Japanese. Presently, he is a Professor at the prestigious Center for Marine Environmental Studies (CMES), Ehime University, Japan. His many research awards include the Okada Prize from the Oceanographical Society of Japan (1985), the Nissan Science Prize from Nissan Science Foundation (1999), the Academic Achievement Awards from the Japan Society for Environmental Chemistry (2004) and the 2005 SETAC (Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry) Founders Award (2005).

Ehime University, Japan

Jonathan Williams



Jonathan Williams is an atmospheric chemist. He received his B.Sc. in Chemistry and French and his Ph.D. in Environmental Science from the University of East Anglia, England. Between 1995 and 1997, he worked at the NOAA Aeronomy laboratory in Boulder, USA. He has participated in many international field campaigns, on aircraft and ships, and at ground stations. His present research involves investigating the chemistry of reactive organic species in the atmosphere, and he leads a group with this aim at the Max Planck Institute for Chemistry in Mainz, Germany. In his spare time he enjoys sailing, swimming and the occasional beer.

Max Planck Institute for Chemistry, Germany