

Editorial

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Effective 1 July 2007, I will retire as editor of *The Journal of Chemical Physics* (JCP) and will be succeeded by Branka Ladanyi who will act as Interim Editor. I have thoroughly enjoyed my nearly twenty-five years as Associate Editor and Editor and would have continued indefinitely had it been possible. On 1 January, I became Vice President for Research and for National Laboratories at The University of Chicago. For a very brief time, I had the naïve thought that I could do both jobs, but it soon became apparent that there were not enough hours in the day to do both jobs well. Therefore, in March, I asked the American Institute of Physics (AIP) to appoint a new Editor.

Being Editor of the JCP is a wonderful job largely because of the people with whom I associate on a daily basis: my fellow editors, the local JCP staff, the AIP management and staff, and, most importantly, the community of chemical physicists. Over twenty-five years, every difficulty and disaster that you can imagine has, in fact, happened, but not often. Almost all of the time I found myself dealing with intelligent and rational people, and I had the strong sense we were engaged in an important common enterprise for the betterment of the field.

I owe thanks to many people for a very enjoyable ride. First, there is John Light who has been my colleague and friend for longer than I have been with the JCP. We have been more or less interchangeable parts for twenty-five years at the Journal without grinding each other down—a remarkable achievement. Next, there are the Associate Editors with whom I have worked: Ed Castner, Ernie Davidson, Marshall Fixman, Branka Ladanyi, Horia Metiu, and M. (Muthu) Muthukumar. This is a group of distinguished scientists who have the highest standards and excellent judgment, and also have considerable good humor in the face of crises more often caused by me than by them.

The office staff at Chicago and the production staff of the AIP in New York are the people who really make the Journal work. Like baseball umpires, they are doing their job best when you don't realize they are there. Everything works well almost all of the time, and this does not happen by accident. Not only is the day-to-day work handled with ex-

treme efficiency, but both the Chicago and AIP staff will expend great effort to solve problems not of their own making. Over the years, they have handled the occasional difficult author, referee, and editor with efficiency and grace.

The AIP, the owner and publisher of the JCP, has had some remarkable people in upper management. Those with whom I have worked most closely, Marc Brodsky, Bill Burke, and Doreene Berger over the many years and most recently Fred Dylla and Mark Cassar, have been wonderful colleagues. There has been a much greater sense of editors and management being family than is usually the case between editor and publisher. As in all families, I have nagged them continuously for resources for the betterment of the JCP, resources which they have to raise to solve my problem. On the whole, they have been responsive to the Journal's needs, and even in cases where I did not get what I was after, the AIP management took the matter seriously and provided timely and rational answers to my requests.

Finally, the most important group responsible for my happy tenure as Editor and Associate Editor is the community of chemical physicists. Many people imagine this job to be one of constant friction between editor and author or editor and referee. This happens, but less often than imagined. Authors almost always make their points in a calm and rational manner. With few exceptions, referees perform their duties on time and with considerable effort and expertise. I am continually amazed that almost all in our community, including our most distinguished members, are willing to put so much time and effort into refereeing papers with no reward other than the overall betterment of the field. Without this tremendous effort expended for the common good, the Journal could not exist. Thank you.

I have great satisfaction and a great feeling of ease in turning over the Journal to someone as competent, efficient, and intelligent as Branka Ladanyi. With her and the group of Associate Editors that I have found so effective, the Journal is in very good hands and has an excellent future. I am confident you will give her the help and support that you have given me, and that she will provide you with an outstanding journal.