We are pleased to announce that Richard O’Hair, professor of Chemistry at the University of Melbourne in Australia is a new associate editor of the Journal of the American Society of Mass Spectrometry. Richard’s role will be to handle articles in ion chemistry, particularly those that offer new insights on the chemistry of biomolecules in the gas phase. Furthermore, he will help with instrumentation and applications in biochemistry and biomedicine.

One reason for expanding the editorial group is the rapidly growing number of activities demanded of us. For example, submissions to the journal continue to grow. For the year ending on May 2009, the number of submissions increased by 14% over those during the previous year. Over a 5 year period, there has been a 59% increase in the number of submissions. Furthermore, editors are often requested to make other contributions to the journal and the ASMS. Planning the future of the journal, conducting reviewer workshops, identifying candidate papers for the Ron Hites JASMS Award, and meeting not only during the annual conference but also at other times fill the lives of the editorial group.

Another reason is that science continues to grow rapidly in Asia and on the Pacific Rim. We felt that Asia deserves more representation on the editorial group of JASMS. Approximately 52% of the submissions to the journal originate from countries other than those in North America, and 16% are from Australia, China, Japan, and Korea.

In addition to serving as Professor in the School of Chemistry, University of Melbourne, Richard is a member of the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Free Radical Chemistry and Biotechnology. He holds B.Sc. Honors (1986), Ph.D. (1990), and D.Sc. (2004) degrees from the University of Adelaide, and was elected Fellow of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute in 2004. His honors and Ph.D. research was with Professor John Bowie, and after post-doctoral work with Roger Truscott (University of Wollongong) and Charles DePuy (University of Colorado), he established his own independent research program as assistant professor at Kansas State University (August 1993–May 1996). Since moving to Melbourne, his group has used the powerful combination of electrospray ionization and the multistage mass spectrometry capabilities of a modified ion trap mass spectrometer to examine fundamental chemistry of organic, inorganic, organometallic, and biological systems.

Richard has published ~180 scientific papers, holds a joint patent on the analysis of amino acids, peptides, and proteins, has given several plenary and keynote lectures at international conferences and serves on the Editorial Advisory Board of five international mass spectrometry journals (RCMS, JJMS, EJMS, JASMS, MSR). His awards include the Selby Research Award, the Gilmour Research Award, and the David Syme Research Prize. He is an active member of the Australian and New Zealand Society for Mass Spectrometry (ANZSMS), having served on the Executive Board for over a decade in the roles of secretary, convener of the 19th ANZSMS meeting (Lorne, 2003), Vice-President, and President. In 2007, he presented the Morrison Lecture, the then highest award for of the ANZSMS. Richard has been involved in advising the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority on the chemistry curriculum for the final two years of high school in Victoria. He is also a published numismatist.

We welcome Richard to the editorial group, and we look forward to his help in maintaining our tradition of high-quality reviewing and editing for your submissions to JASMS.

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