

JPCL: A Dynamic Journal with a Global Reach

Happy New Year to the authors, reviewers, and readers of *The Journal of Physical Chemistry Letters* (JPCL). JPCL is widely viewed as the top choice for publishing leading-edge research in physical chemistry. As a consequence, we are seeing a significant increase in the number of submissions, as well as an impressive improvement in the quality of these papers. In view of the enthusiasm for authors to submit to JPCL, and in the face of a need to serve our authors by increasing the journal's impact, we are implementing new plans to build up and improve the journal. Our goal is to take JPCL to new levels of impact by attracting broader research topics, engaging the best researchers globally, and improving the speed and transparency of the publication process. We aim to make JPCL dynamic and responsive to changes in the leading edge of physical chemistry.

In 2019 we are working toward implementing a new editorial workflow to evaluate papers rapidly and effectively. At least two editors will provide immediate and substantive evaluation of submitted papers, enabling us to quickly flag papers that either would be a better fit with another journal or are exceptional and thus can be peer reviewed and published with even higher speed. An exciting benefit for authors will be that a fraction of papers (5–10% of published articles) will be carefully reviewed and published within 1–2 weeks from submission. In case that we decide that a manuscript does not fit the goals of our journal, we will offer a fast turnaround so that the authors can quickly proceed with submission to a more appropriate venue.

We are looking for papers that report a substantive new insight, discovery, or advance. We strongly recommend that authors explicitly and succinctly describe what they see as the key advance of their submission in the abstract and in the introduction and that they explain to the reader why their finding should matter to the broad physical chemistry community. *Clarity and specificity* in defining the main finding and the significance of the research discriminate the best papers from other good, but less urgent, studies. In addition, authors who have had their paper reviewed at another journal (*Nature*, *Science*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, and *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* are common examples) are strongly encouraged to provide those reviews to JPCL editors together with a point-by-point response explaining how the manuscript has been revised. This will expedite our evaluation of the work. Authors may upload that information as "Supporting Information for Review Only" or include it in their cover letter.

JPCL has expanded its editorial team for 2019. We welcome Haizheng Zhong, Beijing Institute of Technology, and Tanja Cuk, University of Colorado at Boulder. Haizheng is a nanocrystal expert with additional experience in OLEDs and organic solar cells. Tanja is an expert in heterogeneous catalysis and reaction dynamics, material surfaces, and renewable energy. In addition to Haizheng and Tanja, the JPCL editorial team includes Juan Bisquert (U. Jaume), Maria

Forsyth (Deakin), Benedetta Mennucci (Pisa), Oleg Prezhdo (USC), Francisco Zaera (UCR), Jin Zhang (UCSC), and Timothy Zwier (Purdue). Also, JPCL now has an independent Editorial Advisory Board (EAB); its founding members are listed in Table 1. We plan to involve our EAB strongly in strategic planning for improving JPCL. We thank the EAB members for agreeing to serve.

JPCL's 5-year impact factor is rising steadily (Figure 1). Our regular (2-year) impact factor (IF), however, is more

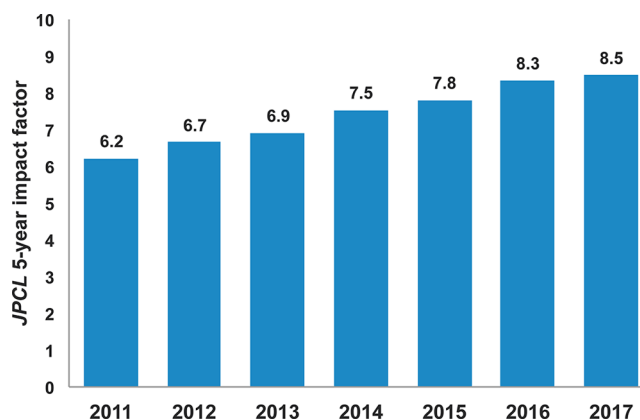


Figure 1. Five-year impact factor.

sporadic. That reflects changes in the ACS journal portfolio which, in turn, has changed the mix of papers in JPCL. In response, we are actively building new communities by shifting the balance of topics covered in JPCL. For example, in recent months we have published many more papers in the field of magnetic resonance, batteries, fundamental studies relevant to solar energy and LEDs, ultrafast laser spectroscopy, and attosecond science. In the next few years we anticipate becoming a leading journal for topics that include low-dimensional and exotic materials (e.g., topological insulators and Dirac semimetals), X-ray science, catalysis, surface science, energy harvesting and storage, machine learning, materials with new optoelectronic properties, and new computational strategies for composite systems.

The editors at JPCL are becoming more dynamic in responding to the increased number and mix of submissions received and are changing priorities to reflect new advances in the field of physical chemistry. Our aim is to represent the current leading edge of the most exciting research. We all hope the authors and referees continue to be excited about JPCL, and we strongly encourage you to consider this journal for your best work in 2019.

In addition to publishing many authoritative and highly cited Perspectives and Viewpoints, in 2018 JPCL featured in several Virtual Issues (Table 2). We also continue to highlight some of the latest papers through Spotlights.

Published: January 3, 2019

Table 1. JPCL Editorial Advisory Board 2019


first name	last name	institution	country
Steven	Corcelli	University of Notre Dame	United States
Gregory	Engel	University of Chicago	United States
Xiaosheng	Fang	Fudan University	China
Hirendra	Ghosh	Bhabha Atomic Research Centre	India
Lars	Gundlach	University of Delaware	United States
Denis	Jacquemin	University of Nantes	France
Yosuke	Kanai	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	United States
Maksym	Kovalenko	ETH Zurich	Switzerland
Benjamin	Levine	Michigan State University	United States
Guohui	Li	Dalian Institute of Chemical Physics	China
Xiaosong	Li	University of Washington	United States
Xiaogang	Liu	National University of Singapore	Singapore
Yanming	Ma	Jilin University	China
Jill	Millstone	University of Pittsburgh	United States
Valeria	Moliner	University of Utah	United States
Jose	Rodriguez	Brookhaven National Laboratory	United States
Robert	Schurko	University of Windsor	Canada
Trevor	Smith	University of Melbourne	Australia
Sergei	Tretiak	Los Alamos National Laboratory	United States
Jianpu	Wang	Nanjing Technical University	China
Masayoshi	Watanabe	Yokohama National University	Japan
Peng	Zhang	Dalhousie University	Canada
Junrong	Zheng	Peking University	China

Table 2. J. Phys. Chem. Lett. Virtual Issues in 2018

title	link	jointly with
Physical Chemistry of Energy Materials	https://pubs.acs.org/page/jpclcd/vi/energy-materials	
Physical Chemistry in South Korea	https://pubs.acs.org/page/jpchax/vi/jpc-south-korea	J. Phys. Chem. A, B, C
Plasmons for Energy Conversion	https://pubs.acs.org/page/aelccp/vi/plasmon.html	ACS Energy Lett., J. Phys. Chem. C, J. Am. Chem. Soc.
Coherence in Chemistry and Biophysics	https://pubs.acs.org/page/jpclcd/vi/coherence	
Machine Learning	https://pubs.acs.org/page/vi/jpc-machine-learning.html	J. Phys. Chem. A, B, C

Spotlights could be used to promote your work to a broader audience or to stimulate a press release or other advertisement for your Letter.

A big thanks to Kate Luckey, our Coordinating Editor, who ensures that our workflow is rapid, is responsible for journal content like Spotlights, and is always happy to help authors and editors with questions and difficulties. We are also grateful for the support of the ACS, particularly Sarah Tegen, Sai Konda, and Bill Aumiller. We thank the JPC office staff in Evanston and our journal assistants for the important roles they play supporting the functioning of JPCL. We are confident that 2019 will be another terrific year for JPCL, and we wish you, our authors, readers, and reviewers, a happy and successful year.

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Princeton University

George C. Schatz

Northwestern University

Juan Bisquert

Universitat Jaume I,

Maria Forsyth

Deakin University

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Notes

Views expressed in this editorial are those of the authors and not necessarily the views of the ACS.