

2021: A Year Starting Full of Hope

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The year of 2020 was a tumultuous one for almost everyone on the globe, but with a number of vaccines to protect us against SARS-Cov-2 infections beginning to be administered in some parts of the world, many of us welcomed the new year with much more hope for a brighter future than we had for most of 2020. With the vaccines rolling out, and our need to be able to monitor the response of individuals to a vaccine, 2021 promises also to be another huge year for sensing. The antibody-based sensing systems will really come to the fore for this application as well as the nucleic acid-based sensing systems for direct detection of viral infections.

Last year also saw some significant changes to the journal. Our inaugural Managing Editor Nella Mazur, who also proposed the idea of the journal to the ACS, continued her meteoric rise in publishing and was promoted to Assistant Director and Publisher. Nicole Camasso then joined as our new Managing Editor, and new Associate Editors Roya Maboudian, Jean-François “JF” Masson, and Andrew deMello were added to the Editorial Board. The other significant change was Meng Li joining as a Development Editor, which means absolutely every manuscript passes before at least 2 pairs of scientific eyes. And of course, our impact factor made it over 7, being 7.333.

One point of particular interest this year, as in all years for all journals, is what will the next impact factor be? This is a particularly hard question to answer this coming year as Clarivate has changed how impact factors will be calculated. For a long time, an article was considered a “citable item” when all of the citation information was available—that is typically page numbers were available—as would be the case when the publication world was dominated by printed issues. Starting this year, Clarivate will now recognize the electronic publication date in its calculations to be more in line with the modern world of electronic publishing. This change will eliminate the unfair advantage some journals get by leaving papers in advanced release for a long time or by publishing issues with dates months in advance of the actual date the issue is released. While the change will be completely implemented in 2022, this year will be a transition year in which some journals will experience inflated impact factors. During this transition period, citations from early releases will be counted in the numerator of the impact factor but will be excluded from the publication count (i.e., the denominator), thereby causing this inflationary effect.

As the journal starts its sixth year, what do we have in store apart from our usual monthly issues? This year we will publish at least 3 virtual issues on already published papers with the goal of celebrating the geographic diversity of the authorship of *ACS Sensors*. There will be one virtual issue on the Asia-Pacific

region, one on Europe, Africa, and the Middle East, and one on the Americas. Along the theme of reaching out to parts of the globe, Associate Editor Roya Maboudian will speak as part of the ACS India Science Talk series on her own research. 2021 will also be the last year we host our ACS Measurement Science Lectureship Awards at Pittcon. Later this year, we will also have our 2021 winners speak at a virtual conference run by the ACS with 1 day of talks dedicated to each of the ACS measurement science journals and 1 day to the award winners. Starting in 2022, this Measurement Science Forum will be the home of the awards. Finally, we are hoping to streamline the article types a little by eliminating the Sensor Issues and Introducing our Authors article categories.

We really hope that we will be able to engage with as many of you as possible in 2021, although meeting in person seems to be a long way off still. Let us hope that the vaccines not only protect us against infection but also protect a vaccinated person from being infective to others, while providing protection for a long time. It is still a long haul before the vaccines reach across the entire globe. Then, life will improve rapidly and the physical meeting of people from different countries will become more common again. We certainly miss meeting the authors who submit to *ACS Sensors* and have made the journal what it is today.

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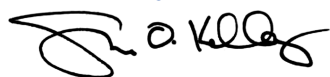


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