

# Editorial

---

Let us take this opportunity as we begin another new year for a brief analysis of the *Journal of the Brazilian Chemical Society* for the year gone by and set forth what we hope for the our publication this coming year. Analysis of the data for 2004 shows, once again, considerable expansion of the *Journal*: the number of articles submitted for publication, and those articles effectively published, rose by 20% compared to the previous year. A similar increase had already been reported in the Editorial of the first issue for 2004, a sure sign that the periodical is still undergoing a phase of growth and that we may aspire to an even greater expansion. It is important to point out that this growth has also been accompanied by an improvement in the quality and the repercussion of the studies published therein, as is indicated by the continuing increase in the impact factor evaluated by the *ISI* which, according to preliminary estimates, should be consolidated this year.

The processing of an ever greater number of articles, especially in areas which are more and more diverse, and in which Chemistry plays a fundamental role, led the publishers to the conclusion that a more multi-faceted array of editors was necessary to be able to dedicate the attention required for each specialized article. Thus, beginning this year, the *JBCS* group will have six Associate Editors who will participate in accompanying the process of evaluating each article submitted. We are grateful to our colleagues Francisco Radler de Aquino Neto, Luiz Carlos Dias, Jaísa Fernandes Soares, Joaquim A. Nóbrega, Maysa Furlan and Ricardo Longo for agreeing to participate in this task with us, and we extend a hearty welcome aboard to each of them!

The year 2004 also ushered in the implantation of a system for submission and tracking of *JBCS* manuscripts. This system was totally developed withing the SBQ, and we are happy to say that its implantation took place with no great obstacles. During this period, the comprehension

of the authors and referees was very important due to the problems which might occur, as were their critiques and suggestions which allowed for improvement of the system whose implementation will be finalized at the beginning of this year. This system will be available for the other SBQ publications with the support of the CNPq which has granted additional resources from the *Fundo Setorial de Infra-Estrutura*, in an announcement of support to improve the electronic publication of Brazilian periodicals.

The new year also brings changes in the periodical's appearance, its visual aspects. With this issue begins the utilization of *Graphical Abstracts* in the *JBCS*, an initiative to facilitate identification of the main points of each article.

This year we will publish two special issues. The first will be composed of the contributions of Brazilian and Mexican authors and will be prepared together by editors of the *JBCS* and of the *Revista Mexicana de Química*, as a starting point for approximation of the two communities. The second publication will be a tribute to the 70<sup>th</sup> birthday of Prof. Raimundo Braz Filho, highlighting his contributions to Brazilian Chemistry. Due to the increase in the number of submissions and in order to prevent special issues from obstructing the flow of regular manuscripts, we have decided to publish these special issues as *extras*, which will increase the number of articles published this year.

Our evaluation of the past year is, therefore, extremely positive, and it is with optimism that we face the new year which has already begun. It is noteworthy that the success of the *Journal* reflects the quality of Chemistry produced within Brazil, and has as its base the constant support of the Brazilian chemistry community.

Watson Loh and Maria D. Vargas