Not just another journal

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We are pleased to launch the new interdisciplinary publication “Journal of Chemical Biology” (JOCB), which aims to disseminate research achievements of the physical sciences that can be applied to answer biological and medical research problems (see Aims and Scope on <http://www.springer.com/chemistry/physical/journal/12154?detailsPage=aimsAndScopes> for more information). The journal caters for the still growing community of researchers at the interface of the physical and life sciences with a clear focus on the novelty and innovation being achieved in the physical sciences part with a purpose to elucidate life sciences problems. Being in a developing research area, such as chemical biology, bestows on the journal two additional duties beyond the publication of novel research ideas and results. Firstly, the journal will need to be at the forefront of the education of interested life and physical scientists with regard to the potential chemical biology has for future research. This goal is best reached by having suitable research areas, techniques, themes and tools discussed. The Journal of Chemical Biology will, therefore, aim to provide the research community with interesting and topical reviews written by experts in the field as well as opinion papers to

foster an exchange of research ideas and arguments. While this will all add to the development of the “Chemical Biology” area, it is probably equally important to provide a forum for exchange of information concerning conferences, books, instrumentation and funding opportunities. This “journalistic” content will be covered in the “JOCB bulletin,” which is managed by our news editor Colin Rosser, who would welcome your input and suggestions.

As pointed out above, the focus of the journal will be on innovations achieved by the physical sciences that can be applied to answer biological or medical problems rather than just a chemistry-driven approach, the latter being probably the origin of this new emerging discipline. However, chemistry is and has always been a discipline that fostered interaction with other disciplines such as physics (physical chemistry), mathematics (theoretical chemistry) and biology (protein chemistry) as well as medicine (medicinal chemistry and pharmacology). By accepting that chemistry can offer all these aspects of physical sciences when engaging with the life sciences, we believe that it makes sense to interpret chemical biology in the way described above. While the future development of this exciting new discipline is still beyond prediction, it is fair to assume that physics, mathematics and probably even engineering may become an integral part of chemical biology. This journal will certainly welcome submissions from the broader community of the physical sciences. However, we believe that any meaningful biological problem can only be addressed on the “living” cell, which is at the heart of any research in the “life” sciences. Research papers, therefore, need to address these applications in Cell Biology in order to be considered for publication. We hope that this approach will promote JOCB’s role as an important platform for life scientists with the desire to get acquainted with this new discipline as

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well as giving physical scientists an opportunity to put forward their achievements beyond the traditional boundaries of their discipline.

In this very first issue, various samples will be reviewed by experts coming from both the physical and life sciences. They deliberately cover areas inside as well as outside the “traditional” chemical biology description. Two reviews venture into the biophysical realm of imaging, which is a critical part of life sciences research. The first review by Erika Rosivatz gives a life scientist perspective towards current and potential tools in real time imaging, whereas Fabrice Dumas and colleagues review the membrane compartmentalisation of cells explored by cutting edge diffusion measurement techniques. The other two reviews in this issue cover the chemistry at the interface, providing readers with ideas for the generation of new tools. Edward Tate reviews the recent developments in chemical proteomics, while Lisa Ballou and Richard Lin provide a summary of the current mTor inhibitors, thus, reminding us that chemical biology can be useful towards pharmacological advances. These four reviews are just a selection of potential tools, techniques and systems that are currently employed in chemical biology, with more insights to follow in future issues.

This issue does not contain any research papers, which is a reflection of the high entry standards we introduced for

JOCB. Potential research papers will have to pass a rigorous peer review process and will have to fit the remit of this journal, which could result in more reviews than research-oriented papers being published in the forthcoming issues. We believe that it is in the interest of the research community served by JOCB to aspire for a quality (rather than quantity) journal and will, therefore, work towards this goal. It is our hope that JOCB’s vision will resonate with the research community at the interface of the two disciplines and will grow with this new and exciting discipline. We encourage your participation and look forward to your manuscripts and comments (please forward the comments to our bulletin editor).

Best Wishes

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