

Building on *PCCP*'s success—weekly publication in 2006

DOI: 10.1039/b516769h

Happy New Year to all our readers around the world!

On behalf of the *PCCP* Editorial Board and the *PCCP* Owner Societies, we welcome you to this first issue of *PCCP* in 2006.

Weekly publication

The year ahead is an especially exciting year for *PCCP*. It is a mark of the success of *PCCP* and the community that it serves that the journal will increase in frequency and will be published weekly this year. As detailed in the January 2005 editorial¹ the journal has undergone considerable growth since its launch in 1999, and it is this growth—and the support of our authors and referees—that has enabled us to move to weekly publication. The editorial policy of the journal² continues to be to publish only the best of the work submitted within the scope of the journal. *PCCP* receives a large quantity of high quality papers from our authors and this is the principal driver for moving to weekly publication.

Cover design and formatting

From January 2005 a new cover design for *PCCP* was introduced and this has been enthusiastically received by authors and readers alike. The opportunity to promote work on the cover or inside front cover has been very popular with authors, with much competition for these top spots (see Fig. 1 for examples). We do encourage authors to send suggestions for covers with their manuscript. Authors who have their work featured on the covers receive hard copies of the cover and also the electronic file to use in presentations, *etc.* In addition the covers are promoted widely on our web pages including the *PCCP* home page, the contents pages, and the cover gallery.

This year with the move to weekly publication we have taken the opportu-

nity to change the design of the journal articles to make each article even more attractive to read. We are also introducing a new ordering system on our website to further enhance the online browsing of content. We hope that you will enjoy reading the journal every week and find the new format easier to read, both in print and on the web.

High impact and immediacy index

In June 2005 we were delighted when newly-released ISI[®] citation data showed that *PCCP* had the highest immediacy index of any general physical chemistry journal during 2004 (Fig. 2). The immediacy index is a measure of how topical and urgent the papers published by a journal are, and is calculated by dividing the number of citations to articles published in a given year by the number of articles published in that year. In principle the immediacy index could be seen as an indication of the level of the impact factor in years to come. The 2004 *PCCP* immediacy index was 0.745—higher than any other general physical chemistry journal, and more than double the 'physical chemistry' subject category aggregate index of 0.381. We would like to thank all of our authors, referees and readers for making this happen. The

PCCP impact factor also rose for the fourth consecutive year.

It is worth noting that alongside the ACS Publications, journals from RSC Publishing have the highest median impact factor among publishers in the chemical sciences. This encouraging statistic demonstrates the recognition and status that researchers place in society published work (Fig. 3).

Our quickest ever paper

PCCP continues to recognise the importance many authors attach to the rapid publication of their work. The journal is well-known for being the quickest physical journal, and our long-term trends to increasingly quicker publication have continued over the past year. In June we published a full paper³—by Fred Manby and coworkers—less than nine days after receipt! This incredibly short publication time made it our fastest ever paper, and was achieved without compromising on the peer-review process. As ever, all papers published in *PCCP* receive at least two reports from our international panel of referees.

Editorial board changes

Five Editorial Board members (Professors Mike Ashfold, Martin Head-Gordon, Giovanni Marletta, Helmuth

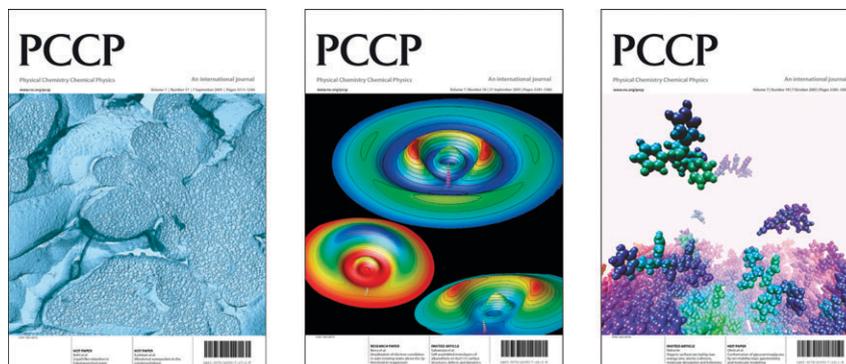


Fig. 1 Covers from 2005 (a) Cover picture from Ingrid Kohl *et al.* (issue 17); (b) cover from R. Stephen Berry *et al.* (issue 18); (c) cover from Arnaud Delcorte (issue 19).

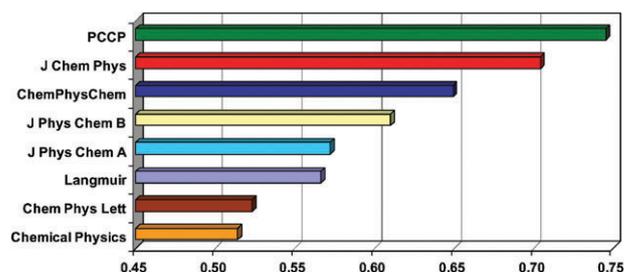


Fig. 2 Comparison of 2004 immediacy indices as published by ISI®.

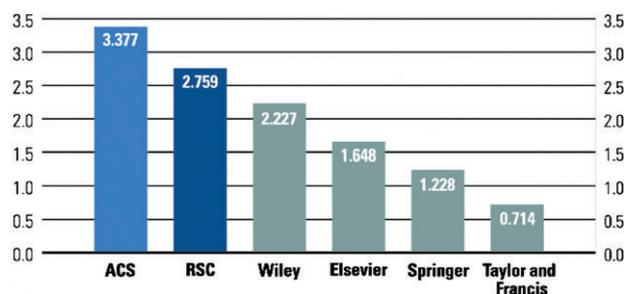


Fig. 3 Median impact factor in seven ISI® core chemistry categories.

Möhwald and Stuart Rice) completed their respective terms of office at the end of 2005, and receive our sincere appreciation for their substantial contributions to the success of the journal. We would like to single out Professor Mike Ashfold for a special mention. The end of 2005 saw the retirement of Mike as Chair of the Editorial Board. Mike has served as Chair for the past three years, and has been an Editorial Board member since the journal's launch in 1999. He has contributed a huge amount to the journal over the years, publishing many papers in *PCCP* himself, and has been one of the key figures in helping *PCCP* to establish itself as the premier European based physical chemistry/chemical physics journal. It is fitting that this issue contains an Invited Article written by Mike and co-authors.⁴ High quality Invited Articles have long been one of the most popular aspects of *PCCP*, and readers can look forward to many more over the coming year. The new Chair, Professor Bert Weckhuysen, has been a member of the *PCCP* Editorial Board since 2003. A profile is included at the end of this editorial. Bert says "It is a great pleasure and an honour for me to take on this role, and I am looking forward to building on the considerable achievements of my predecessor."

There are five new members of the Editorial Board from 2006, and we are

delighted to welcome Professors Bernie Binks, Pekka Pyykkö, Piergiorgio Casavecchia, Vincenzo Schettino and Martin Suhm, who bring a wealth of experience from different areas of research. Profiles of each new Editorial Board member will appear in subsequent issues. It also gives us great pleasure to welcome nine new members to our International Advisory Editorial Board: Professors Peter Gill, Andrej Sobolewski, Sabine van Doorslaer, Todd Martinez, Zhongqun Tian, Can Li, Seong Keun Kim, Toshio Kasai and Roi Baer. We also extend a warm welcome to Professor Joshua Jortner who joined the *PCCP* Honorary Board during 2005. Full details of the *PCCP* Honorary, Editorial and Advisory Boards can be found on our website, www.rsc.org/pccp.

Technological advances

2005 has seen RSC Publishing invest significantly in technological developments across all of its products. First there was the introduction of the new website in the summer which included a contemporary, fresh look and an enhanced structure for improved and intuitive navigation between relevant, associated content. The improvements to the technological infrastructure have made the site more flexible and efficient, and better equip the RSC to deliver

enhanced publishing products and services for its customers in the future. The new look was just the start and towards the end of the year we were pleased to provide further enhancements in the form of RSS feeds and 'forward linking' facilities.

RSS, or 'really simple syndication', is the latest way to keep up with the research published by the RSC. The new service provides subscribers with alerts as soon as an Advance Article is published in their journal of choice. Journal readers simply need to go to the journal homepage, click on the RSS link, and follow the step-by-step instructions to register for these enhanced alerts. RSS feeds include both the graphical abstract and text from a journal's contents page—*i.e.* they deliver access to new research straight to a readers PC, as soon as it is published! Many feed reader software packages also have the added benefit of remembering what has been read previously, which in turn makes tracking and managing journal browsing more efficient.

'Forward linking', the reverse of reference linking, enables readers to link from any RSC published paper to the articles in which it is cited. In essence, it allows researchers to easily track the progression of a concept or discovery, since its original publication. With one click of a button (on the 'search for citing articles' link) a list of citing articles included in CrossRef is presented, complete with DOI links. At a time when research is becoming increasingly interdisciplinary in nature and the amount of published work continues to grow, it is hoped that the new technology, developed in conjunction with CrossRef, will significantly reduce the time spent by researchers searching for information.

These developments demonstrate the investment in publishing products and services over the past year and 2006 will see us enhancing our products further, with improvements to the HTML functionality of all journals and ReSource (the author and referee web interface) already underway.

Soft Matter

Following its successful launch in 2005, the RSC's new monthly journal *Soft Matter* goes from strength to strength.

PCCP profiles Professor Bert Weckhuysen, the new Chair of the PCCP Editorial Board



Prof. Bert Weckhuysen, a native of Belgium, received his chemical training and education from Leuven University. After obtaining his PhD degree in 1995 under the supervision of Prof. Robert Schoonheydt, he worked as a postdoctoral fellow with Prof. Israel Wachs at Lehigh University (USA) and with Prof. Jack Lunsford at Texas A&M University (USA). In 1997 he returned to his *alma mater*, where he has been awarded the Prize of the Research Council for his research work in 1998. In 2000 he moved to Utrecht University (The Netherlands), where he became full professor of inorganic chemistry and catalysis. He obtained a VICI grant award from the Dutch Research Council in 2002 and is since 2003 scientific director of the Dutch Research School for Catalysis (NIOK). Recently, he became a member of the Young Academy of the Royal Dutch Academy of Sciences (KNAW) and a fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry (FRSC). He is also chairman of the Catalysis section of the Royal Dutch Chemical Society (KNCV) and serves on several boards and panels for national and international research. His research interests include (1) spectroscopy of heterogeneous catalysts during catalyst preparation and real operation in order to develop structure–activity relationships and expert systems for catalytic processes and (2) molecular design of transition metal ion complexes hosted in porous materials for catalyst and sensor applications. He is the author of more than 130 publications in international journals and has extensively published in *PCCP*^{5–7} and other RSC journals.^{8–10}

Providing a forum for the communication of generic science underpinning the properties and applications of soft matter, many top authors from prestigious organisations around the world have already submitted articles. The journal has been very well-received in the community and subscribers to *PCCP* in 2006 will continue to receive free online access to this exciting new addition to the RSC portfolio.

Finally

We would like to express our thanks to everyone who has supported *PCCP*, both by contributing excellent papers and providing valuable and speedy referees' reports. The reputation of the journal, and ultimately its continuing success, is dependent on the quality of work submitted

by supportive authors and the reports provided by dedicated referees.

As always, we welcome your suggestions as to how the journal might be improved or enhanced further; if you have any suggestions please send them to the editorial office at pccp@rsc.org.

We wish you all every success in 2006!

Bert Weckhuysen

Chair, Editorial Board

Susan Weatherby

Editor

Philip Earis

Deputy Editor

References

1 M. Ashfold, S. Appleyard and P. Earis, *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.*, 2005, **7**, 11.

2 M. Ashfold and S. Appleyard, *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.*, 2004, **6**, E9.

3 A. J. May, E. Valeev, R. Polly and F. R. Manby, *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.*, 2005, **7**, 2710.

4 M. N. R. Ashfold, N. H. Nahler, A. J. Orr-Ewing, O. P. J. Vieuxmaire, R. L. Toomes, T. N. Kitsopoulos, I. A. Garcia, D. A. Chestakov, S.-M. Wu and D. H. Parker, *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.*, 2006, **8**, 26.

5 B. M. Weckhuysen, *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.*, 2003, **5**, 4351.

6 F. Morales, D. Grandjean, F. M. F. de Groot, O. Stephan and B. M. Weckhuysen, *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.*, 2005, **7**, 568.

7 S. J. Tinnemans, M. H. F. Kox, T. A. Nijhuis, T. Visser and B. M. Weckhuysen, *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.*, 2005, **7**, 211.

8 B. M. Weckhuysen, *Chem. Commun.*, 2002, 97.

9 A. M. Beale, A. M. J. van der Eerden, K. Kervinen, M. A. Newton and B. M. Weckhuysen, *Chem. Commun.*, 2005, 3015.