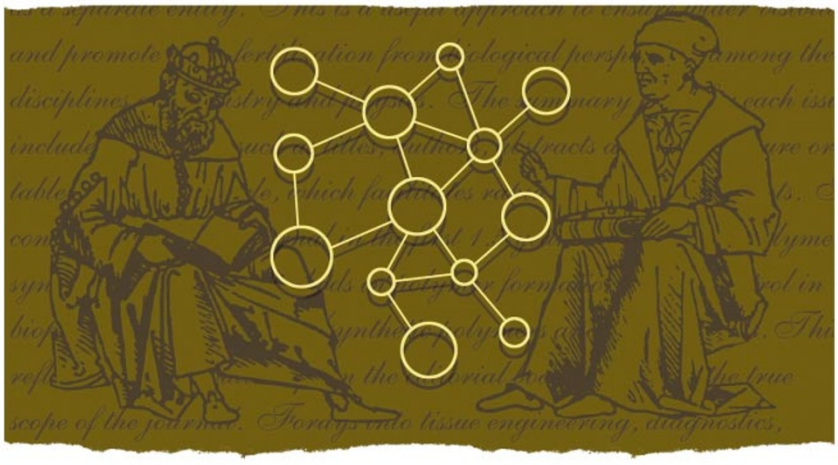

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www.wiley-vch.de/publish/en/journals/newJournals/2127

A home for proteomics data?

Molecular and Cellular Proteomics
editor Ralph A. Bradshaw
American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. 12/yr. $350, $75 (members of the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology), online access free this year

Matthias Mann

Suppose you have just finished an exciting study involving the identification of hundreds of proteins that are part of a complex, or that change in response to some condition. Where can you publish your results? This is a real problem. If you send them to a biological journal, the reviewers may tell you that that you should get functional data for the proteins, which could take you the rest of your career. If you send them to a technologically or analytically orientated journal, they will say that your methods have already been adequately described in the literature and so your paper is not very interesting. So you may just sit on your proteins, and have them worked up by incoming graduate students over the years, which would be a loss to the scientific community.

Enter *Molecular and Cellular Proteomics* (*MCP*), a spin-off from the *Journal of Biological Chemistry* (*JBC*), the official outlet for the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. This new journal is dedicated to studies just like the one described above, and therefore meets a real need.

Judging from the articles published in the first few issues, the mission statement and the composition of the editorial board, *MCP* takes an expansive view of proteomics, embracing subjects such as bioinformatics related to proteomics, protein databases, two-hybrid methods for protein interactions, two-dimensional gel studies, and mass-spectrometric methods.

There are three categories for original articles: research, database and technology. Another new feature is the online site, which, as well as displaying an electronic version of the printed journal, is intended to function as an associated database for the proteomics investigations described in the papers. This material can be much more extensive than usual, and *MCP* is working on navigation and visualization features. The quality of papers published so far is good, with a few groundbreaking papers already in the bag.

Publication speed is, in my experience, quite rapid, with the additional advantage that accepted papers are put on the web immediately, even while the paper is being edited into the final version. This can be quite useful for authors in a publishing race.

Where should *MCP* stake its claim in the publishing food chain? The premier position in proteomics is taken by *Nature Biotechnology*, and breakthrough biological results will also probably be reported elsewhere. *MCP* is well positioned to become to proteomics research what *JBC* is to biological research — a standard place for solid results that have undergone stringent peer review and that will be easily accessible to almost everyone. For this to happen *MCP* needs to maintain or even strengthen its reviewing standards, and focus on the quality of papers rather than the number published if it is to achieve an impact factor similar to that of *JBC*.

Once the journal is firmly established and its identity is clear in everybody's mind, there should be no shortage of papers as proteomics methods and proteomic-scale experiments become more commonplace. The *Journal of Proteome Research*, launched at almost the same time by the American Chemical Society, is likely to concentrate more on technological advances, and *Electrophoresis* and *Proteomics* will probably continue to be more focused on the two-dimensional-gel community.

The format of *MCP* articles varies somewhat, and standardization would make the journal more visually appealing. In extension of its online features mentioned above, *MCP* could perform a great service by helping to establish some standard as to how proteomics data collections are published and visualized so that they can actually be used by biologists.

In conclusion, faced with the dilemma I outlined at the start, I would encourage you to publish your proteins in *MCP*. Scientists with similar data should think 'out of the box' and submit their proteomics data for the community to use, and now there is a place for them to do it. ■

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www.mcponline.org

Shining a light on molecules

Photochemistry and Photobiological Sciences
editors-in-chief Frank Wilkinson & Tamás Vidóczy
Royal Society of Chemistry. 12/yr. £723, $1,091

Robin M. Hochstrasser

The introduction of a new journal often signals the emergence of a sub-field or scientific direction that needs to establish a voice of its own, a place where specialists can air their views. A new journal can provide a balance when trends narrow the impact of journals that were intended to have a broader context. Specialist journals can also be healthily unimpressed with hyperbole, and tell it like it is. *Photochemistry and Photobiological Sciences* aims to do just this in fields related to "any

aspect of the interaction of light with molecules, supramolecular systems or biological matter".

Experimental and theoretical principles governing the interactions of photons with molecules, and the resulting behaviour of electronically excited states, are readily transferable between applications in chemistry, materials science, biology, atmospheric science and medicine. Although the properties of excited states are profoundly influenced by chemical variations and the surrounding medium of the molecule, there are systematic ways to understand these variations, regardless of the complexity. This gives the journal a meaningful focus and a good chance of contributing to the more effective flow of knowledge and expertise between these fields.

Photochemistry and Photobiological Sciences does not aim to compete with the highest-impact journals, but rather to provide a medium for researchers to disseminate solid contributions on photoscience that form the framework of excited-state chemistry. The journal has a chemical flavour and may be read by organic photochemists as frequently as by photobiologists. I can certainly envisage browsing it to discover interesting optical properties of molecules and biological systems, and I would expect others whose work touches on molecular excited states to find something of interest in it.

Although published by the Royal Society of Chemistry, it has an international appeal and has become the official journal of the European Photochemical Association and the European Society for Photobiology — members of both can make large savings on the subscription price. The editors-in-chief are from Britain and Hungary, and the associate editors are based in a range of European countries as well as Canada and the United States.

Besides conventional papers, the intention is to publish short communications on either fascinating photoscience or technical advances, along with review-style perspectives, which will be commissioned by the editors. The electronic resources of the Royal Society of Chemistry provide for electronic submissions, easy access to the journals and free electronic reprints. The editors promise an average of 95 days between submission and publication. Although I expect that this will depend on how long it takes referees to respond and how many referees are used (at least two, I hope), the commitment to reduced publication times is excellent news. The free use of colour will also be attractive to prospective authors.

In summary, the journal spans a range of fields but has a sharp focus on photo-related phenomena. Nevertheless, if high standards of refereeing and editorial judgement can be established, it should be of interest to anyone involved in photochemistry in its widest sense and become a useful specialist journal that fills a gap. ■

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- **www.rsc.org/pps**
- **www.unibas.ch/epa**
- **www.pol-us.net/ESP_Home/abt_esp.html**

Adapting to a diverse world

Organisms, Diversity and Evolution
editors-in-chief Gerhard Haszprunar, J. Wolfgang Wägele & Joachim W. Kadereit
Urban & Fischer. 4/yr. £182, $302, 255 euros (institutional); £70, $122, 152.40 euros (individual)

Andy Purvis

The title of this new journal certainly leaves plenty of scope, and promises a diverse set of papers. The taxonomic breadth is indeed commendable: the issues I saw featured bacteria, yeast, plants and six metazoan phyla. There is also a range of article types: reviews, original papers and purely taxonomic papers, with the last of these being published online and abstracted in the printed version — an excellent compromise between authors' and publishers' views about how long papers should be. Papers show a pragmatic mixture of methodologies, too, with no sign of editorial dogma; for example, phylogenies are estimated from molecular and morphological data in about equal numbers, and using parsimony, likelihood and distance approaches.

Not all of the promised diversity has materialized so far, however. Straightforward systematics and phylogenetics predominate, with some comparative anatomy, character-evolution studies and distributional work, but there is no science policy news or palaeontology, and surprisingly little by way of formal hypothesis testing. Some papers were impressive and thought-provoking, but I was disappointed by the level of analysis in others, and there was little methodological innovation. Such patchiness is to an extent inevitable — almost every new journal's call for papers is met by an emptying of desk drawers — and will hopefully peter out as the journal receives more submissions.

Having said that, *Organisms, Diversity and Evolution* has a particularly narrow author base. It is the journal of the Gesellschaft für Biologische Systematik, after all, so it is hardly fair to criticize it for not being fully international. But all three of the editors-in-chief are based in Germany