

I am both pleased and honoured to have been appointed as the fifth Editor in Chief of *Photosynthetica*. During the summer 2012, Prof. Jan Nauš decided to leave his position of the Editor in Chief. Fortunately, he was so kind to agree with his gradual withdrawal, which gave me and our editorial staff some time to adjust ourselves to the new situation.

The success of *Photosynthetica* is to the credit of the outgoing Editor in Chief and especially Dr. Zdeněk Šesták, who set up this journal. Most of my professional life I had been quite close to *Photosynthetica*, namely because of Dr. Šesták. After finishing my regular studies of biochemistry at the Faculty of Sciences, the Charles University in Prague, he was the supervisor of my PhD studies and later also my boss as the head of our department and laboratory in the Institute of Experimental Botany. Being his student and later co-worker, I had to write many research reports for him. He had been usually satisfied, even if I was discouraged seeing so many corrective, red ink remarks done in my text. Nevertheless, his corrections clearly improved my original versions, which I had to realize sooner or later. I think that he was a bit disappointed that I could not fulfill his wish at that time to be involved more in *Photosynthetica* and I drifted away from any editorial work. Thus, I see it as the irony of life that I have been appointed as the Editor in Chief at the end of year 2012, the year of Dr. Šesták's eightieth, not live birthday.

Many changes in editorial work have occurred since *Photosynthetica* beginning. A new system of manuscript evaluation and processing has been launched under Prof. Nauš's administration during recent four years. A major technical innovation, a fully electronic manuscript submission, handling, and tracking system (ScholarOne) has been implemented. It enhanced highly an importance of the Associated Editors' work, which I really appreciate and I am very grateful for it. Excellent work of the Executive Editor, Ing. Ivana Štětínová, has enabled to overcome smoothly changes in the Editor in Chief's post and to keep a continuity of the journal. As far as I can judge now, the present system works well and efficiently, although some generation changes in the Editorial Board of *Photosynthetica* are to be expected sooner or later.

A major focus and orientation of *Photosynthetica* to all aspects of photosynthesis to gain an understanding of the processes and mechanisms controlling plant growth and development and impact of the environment will be kept further on. To reflect changes in approaches I would welcome and encourage the submission of papers that take a molecular, molecular genetic or environmental and physiological approach to elucidate underlying mechanisms.

My aim will be not only to maintain the reputation of the journal but also to increase it with support from the Associated Editors and the editorial staff. The Journal impact factor has been increasing slowly over the last years and we hope to continue in this direction. I plan to provide an efficient and user-friendly service for both authors and readers alike.

I am looking forward to working with our editorial staff in order to bring high quality scientific knowledge to our readers.

HELENA SYNKOVÁ (*Praha*)

### A few tips for a good readability

Readability is generally defined as “the ease in which a text can be read and understood“ (Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia).

With an increasing number of submitted papers, there is a tendency to prefer not only papers with the best scientific content, but to consider more their style and language. Authors, especially the non-native English ones, are recommended to have their papers checked by either a more experienced, ideally native English speaking, colleague or by a provider of English editing services.

Generally, complying with all, even very detailed, requests of the journal (described in *Notice to contributors* and in *Detailed instructions for preparation of papers*) is a guarantee of a faster peer-review and more positive attitude of reviewers and editors. Using of usual terms and recommended abbreviations maintains good readability of papers throughout the journal and keeps the journal consistency.

A special attention should be paid to a style and technical parameters of attached graphs and images since overlooking of the journal requirements is the most frequent reason for a delayed final decision.

There are many publications dealing with the style and language of scientific papers and some of them are available as pdf files on internet. Let me recommend you only a few of them:

Glasman-Deal, H.: **Science Research Writing**. Imperial College Press, London 2009.

Greenbaum, S., Whitcut, J.: **The Longman Guide to English Usage**. Penguin, London 1996.

Peat, J.: **Scientific Writing: Easy When You Know How**. BMJ Books, London 2002.

Strunk, W., and White, E.B.: **The Elements of Style**. 4<sup>th</sup> edition. Longman 2000.

Wager, E., Godlee, F., Jefferson, T.: **How to Survive Peer Review**. BMJ Books, London 2002.

**Some statistical data from 2012**

All the data were assumed from ScholarOne statistical reports and concern the period from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012.

The editorial office received 191 papers in total, of which 177 were original papers (OP), 12 brief communications (BC), and 2 reviews (R). In four issues of the last volume 62 OP, 6 BC, and 1 R were published.

When compared with the last year's statistics, the most evident and very positive change, especially for authors, is in the shortening of a decision time (Fig. 1). Most of manuscripts got their final decision in one month after submission, which was two month earlier than in the last year (*see* Editorial in PS 50/1, p. 3, 2012).

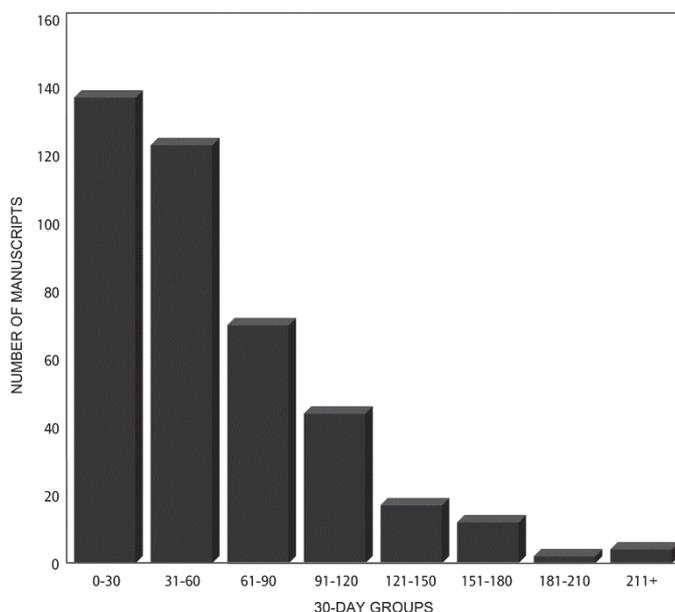


Fig. 1. Time from submission to decision – 30-day groups.

Table 1. Final decisions by manuscript type.

Decision	OP		BC	
	Manuscripts	Percentage of total	Manuscripts	Percentage of total
Accept	73	48 %	9	56 %
Reject	79	52 %	7	44 %
Total	152	100 %	16	100 %

Table 2. The decision ratios [%] for originally submitted and revised papers.

Decision	Originally submitted papers			Revised papers		
	OP	BC	R	OP	BC	R
Accept	-	-	-	32	47	67
Minor revision	9	18	-	53	37	33
Major revision	43	46	100	11	-	-
Reject	48	36	-	4	16	-

IVANA ŠTĚTINOVÁ (*Praha*)