News from ABC: changes and challenges

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Regular readers of ABC may notice something different in this issue: this time there is no special issue with papers highlighting a specific topic from the many hot areas of analytical and bioanalytical science. No need to worry: in the course of 2011, you will see more of these popular special issues than ever before, as the frequency of publication has been increased from 24 issues to 30 issues per year. This is in response to healthy growth of the journal in recent years. Under the supervision of ABC's eight experienced editors, the same, if not stricter, criteria for peer review apply. With submissions having increased by more than a third for the second year running, you can look forward to more high-quality articles. I encourage you to subscribe free of charge to ABC's Table of Contents Alerts via springer.com/abc, to stay tuned to what is published in ABC.

The outstanding development of the journal, signified also by now being ranked 6th by impact factor among all analytical chemistry journals indexed by the ISI Web of Science, can be attributed to one name in particular: Christina E. Dyllick (Fig. 1). As Managing Editor from the very beginning, Christina has played a decisive role in making ABC what it is today. With admirable dedication and strategic management, she has implemented a number

Fig. 1 Christina E. Dyllick, founding Managing Editor of *Analytical and Bioanalytical Chemistry*

of features that have contributed to the journal's success. These features include online submission, efficient support of authors, reviewers, and editors through the Editorial Office, and the regular special issues, characterized by high online usage and frequent citations. Other examples are the attractive covers with the sophisticated "science-art" design, and the regular educational columns.

Christina retired in January this year, and I suppose she will enjoy having more time for painting, dancing, and gardening, and, in particular, with her first grandchild. On behalf of ABC's entire editorial team, I wish Christina all the best and that she will enjoy the challenges of her new life.

It is, therefore, now both my challenge and my pleasure to continue in Christina's large footsteps. I am glad that I

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can count on the collaboration of two experienced Deputy Managing Editors — Andrea Pfeifer, who has been with ABC as Associate Editor for nine years, and was promoted in January 2011, and Nicola Oberbeckmann-Winter, who rejoined the Editorial Office in October 2010, bringing with her six years of experience in scientific publishing.

The publishing of ABC is a collaborative effort. Much of the responsibility and workload rests with the Editors, whose untiring commitment to ABC is highly appreciated. An important contribution through advice and guidance comes from the International Advisory Board. We cordially welcome the 21 new members who have recently joined the Board for a three-year term. I also sincerely thank those who have left the Board for their contributions in the last three and even more years.

Another reason for ABC's success is the support from its eight Owner Societies (GDCh, SCF, SEQA, RSEQ, ASAC, DAC/SCS, SCI, PTChem) and from the now nine Supporting Societies and Academies of Science. Among the latter group, we warmly welcome the Czech

Chemical Society and the Slovak Chemical Society as new members.

With these solid foundations of collaboration and support, I am confident that we can further establish ABC as a truly international forum for the best of analytical and bioanalytical science.

Steffen Pauly is Senior Editor, Chemistry, for Springer and now also Managing Editor of *Analytical and Bioanalytical Chemistry*. He has been active in scientific publishing since 1992, particularly in analytical science. He received his PhD from the Technische Universität Berlin in 1991 after studying Chemistry in Göttingen and Berlin.