Editorial

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As some of you may have realized, at the end of October 2008 the Editor-in-Chief, Prof. Heinz Falk and with him all other Editors resigned due to problems which were solved in May 2009. Whereas the other Editors continued with their duties then, Prof. Heinz Falk who was operating as Editor-in-Chief since 1998 decided not to come back. Thus, a new Editor-in-Chief had to be assigned, and I was in May 2009 nominated by the Austrian Academy of Science and the Austrian Chemical Society, both owners of *Monatshefte für Chemie/Chemical Monthly*. After a short time of consideration and a brief talk with my friend, Prof. Falk, who promised to support me as much as possible, I accepted the nomination.

It was, of course, an honor to become Editor-in-Chief, but it was certainly not an easy decision to take this position. Anybody who knows Prof. Falk more well will confirm that *Monatshefte für Chemie/Chemical Monthly* was like a “child” for him that he cared for with a great deal of personal effort. I think I can judge this at least to some extent because I have had very close contacts with him since 2003 when I became Editorial Assistant/Managing Editor. Anyway, it is difficult to measure this personal effort, but as an indication of what he did for the journal, let us have a brief look at the development of the impact factor of the journal under his guidance. When he became Editor-in-Chief in 1998, the impact factor of *Monatshefte für Chemie/Chemical Monthly* was around 0.5, and after a continuous increase during the period he guided the journal, it was nearly 1.5 for the year 2008. Although we all are aware of problems in connection with impact factors (Prof. Falk himself does not believe that

they are a valid instrument to quantify the scientific quality of a journal or a paper if published in this journal for several reasons that I cannot replicate here), they are still used in the scientific community. If we use them to compare the development of the *Monatshefte für Chemie/Chemical Monthly*, I dare say what he did for the journal cannot be overestimated, and the footprints he is leaving are really big. Thus, I would feel a bit uncomfortable as his successor if I had to do this job without his assistance, but as mentioned above, Prof. Falk offered his helping hands, and I am counting on him.

Of course, a journal with about 1,500 pages a year covering all areas of chemistry cannot be handled by only one Editor, and thus part of the success is also due to the members of the Editorial Board, who I am more than happy to welcome back. They have supported Prof. Falk fantastically, and I hope that they will do so for me as well.

Last but not least, a scientific journal would be nothing without the contributions from its authors. Thus, a big part, if not the biggest, of the success is also due to this group. The more interesting the submitted papers are, the more resonance they will generate, and this will of course influence the impact factor positively. I hope to welcome back most of you, but also young scientists publishing for the first time are invited to submit their most important papers.

To further increase the speed of processing, during the last Editorial Board meeting it was decided to appoint two additional editors. It is therefore my particular pleasure to welcome Prof. Jürgen Fleig (Physical Chemistry, Vienna University of Technology) and Prof. Wolfgang Buchberger (Analytical Chemistry, Johannes Kepler University Linz) to the Board. I hope that they will enjoy their tasks as do all the other members of the Board and support us as much as possible in our endeavor.

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Eventually Prof. Christian Hametner (Vienna University of Technology) will be appointed for the vacant Managing Editor position to assist the Editorial Board, which I am quite sure he will carry out by all available means.

Finally, I wish for all of us that we can proceed with our journal on the path that Prof. Falk paved and be as successful as he was in maintaining high standards. In this regard, I would like to mention two particular points. First, I think that we should continue with our Special Issues focused on current trends in chemistry, such as we recently had on topics like “Solid state ionics: electrochemistry meets material science,” “Sensor devices and biosensors in food analysis,” “From molecules to molecular devices,” “Computational chemistry,” “Ionic liquids—a survey of recent developments and applications,” etc. All of them have given very detailed insight into selected areas of research in these fields, but can also be recommended as broad overviews to scientists moving into these subjects. Proposals for such Special Issues are always welcome, and I am convinced that they will also be a success.

The second point I would like to mention at the very end, because I feel that this is an important argument and I want it

to be recognized, is the ownership of *Monatshefte für Chemie/Chemical Monthly* by both the Austrian Chemical Society and the Austrian Academy of Science, two organizations representing Austrian scientists. Although the journal is nowadays an international one with contributions from all over the world, I think it would be appropriate also to have more submissions from Austrian scientists again. I would go so far to say it should be a moral obligation for all chemistry scientists in Austria in the broadest sense to submit some of their best scientific achievements to *Monatshefte für Chemie/Chemical Monthly*. As the development of the impact factor in the last couple of years has shown, it can change significantly if the quality of submissions is good, and this is the accomplishment of our authors.

For my new position I am looking forward to a prosperous development of our journal, to good collaboration with all Editors and to a large number of top-quality submissions on contemporary research from our authors, and then I think the future of *Monatshefte für Chemie/Chemical Monthly* will be brilliant. This is all it needs.