Preface

International Year of Chemistry 2011

Science China Chemistry would like to dedicate this special issue to the International Year of Chemistry (IYC) 2011, as part of the celebrations of IYC in China. Scientists from Australia, Brazil, Britain, Canada, Chile, China, France, Germany, India, Israel, Japan, Nepal, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, and the USA have contributed 28 papers marking the event. Our authors from across the globe include students, members (a corresponding member) and fellows of national academies of sciences in several countries (Australia, Chile, China, France, India, Israel, Pakistan, and the USA), fellows of the British and Canadian Royal Societies, and two Nobel Laureates (Robert Grubbs and Ada Yonath). Here they present their work contributing to the IYC 2011 theme “*Chemistry—our life, our future*” [1]. These papers cover fundamental chemistry, the chemical bases of life processes, and their potential applications.

Science China and its sister journal *Chinese Science Bulletin* were both founded in 1950 shortly after the establishment of the People’s Republic of China. For several decades afterward, they were the only science journals published outside the P. R. China. Over the past 61 years, both journals have published some of China’s best papers and most important scientific research. In chemistry and related areas, these include, for instance: the total synthesis of crystalline bovine insulin [2] in 1965—the first protein ever synthesized *in vitro* [3]; the total synthesis of yeast alanine transfer RNA [4] in 1978—the first artificial synthesis of a nucleic acid [5]; and high T_c superconductivity of strontium (barium)-lanthanum-copper oxides in 1987 [6]. In recent years, *Science China Chemistry* has taken steps to become more international, making significant efforts to publish more papers from research outside China. A special issue was published on Chinese-French Communications in Chemistry [7]. Two issues were dedicated to papers presented at the 2009 and 2010 Sino-US Chemistry Professors Conferences [8, 9]. Another issue was published with papers presented at the 6th National Conference on Coordination Chemistry (*cum* International Symposium on Coordination Chemistry) [10]. This current issue in *Science China Chemistry* on the International Year of Chemistry (IYC) 2011 is another step in the direction of the journal’s globalization.

The year 2011 is also the 100th anniversary of the Nobel

Chemistry Prize awarded to Madame Marie Curie [11]. Many female scientists have contributed to this issue, including Carol Fierke, Mina Han, and Nobel Laureate Ada Yonath. Their work and the work of other female scientists in this issue showcase the contributions of women to science.

IYC 2011 highlights the fact that all countries are members of the world community. We face many common challenges like developing new energy sources, conserving limited natural resources, strengthening environmental protection, increasing food safety, and furthering public health, all of which require chemistry to help find solutions. By working together, we can strive for a better future.

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薛子陵

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XUE Zi-Ling conducted his undergraduate studies at Nanjing University-Nanjing College of Pharmacy. He studied organometallic chemistry at the University of California at Los Angeles as a Chemistry Graduate Program (CGP or William von E. Doering Program) fellow, receiving PhD in 1989. He then conducted postdoctoral studies at Indiana University, and in 1992 accepted a position as Assistant Professor at the University of Tennessee. He is now a Paul and Wilma Ziegler Professor, and an associate editor of *Science China Chemistry*. Dr. Xue has received several awards including US National Science Foundation Young Investigator and Special Creativity awards, Camille Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar award, Changjiang Lecture Professor, and Distinguished Oversea Young Scholar award by the National Natural Science Foundation of China. He is a *Fellow* of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).