

## Editorial

**Joseph A. Rard**

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Dr. Donald A. Palmer, Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Solution Chemistry, is retiring from this position on 30 June 2009. Dr. Earle Waghorne of the University College (Dublin, Ireland) will replace Don as editor on 1 July 2009. However, because the monthly issues of our journal are prepared three months in advance, Don will share the responsibility with me for the July–September 2009 issues. Don will become a Consultant Editor to assist us with the transition.

The Journal of Solution Chemistry began publication in July 1972, with the stated goal of being a forum for the publication of research in all aspects of the physical chemistry of liquid solutions. Dr. Robert L. Kay was the founding editor and remained the sole editor until 30 June 2003 when he retired for health reasons. Don and I assumed editorship on 1 July 2003 and have been responsible for the August 2003 and subsequent issues.

When Don and I assumed the editorship in 2003, manuscripts submitted for publication were sent to us by regular mail as paper copies, which were sent out by us for review by the same method, and electronic copies of accepted manuscripts were then sent to us on floppy disks. The time from submitting a manuscript until the editor's decision as to whether the manuscript was accepted or rejected was consequently lengthy, commonly three or four months. In our six years there have been many changes in our journal, most notably the change over to our current Editorial Management System where the submission of manuscripts, their review, and sending of proofs are done by way of e-mail. This has resulted in a significant reduction in the average amount of time required for publication.

Many other changes have occurred during these six years: changes in staff of the journal offices, changes in typesetters that have improved both the speed at which the proofs are prepared and their quality, a merger of the earlier publisher of this journal Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publishers with Springer Science + Business Media, and changes in the publication style, including more complete information given in the references. Together, all of these changes required a considerable effort on the part of the journal staff and editors

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(who were also both full time research chemists at United States National Laboratories until 2007). A good measure of the success of our efforts has been in the growth in the number of papers submitted to our journal and the number published; the page length of our journal in recent years is about 60% greater than in 2003. Of the two Editors-in-Chief, Don Palmer certainly deserves the larger share of the credit for this growth and progress of our journal.

Don Palmer spent much of his career at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in their world-class solution chemistry group. Don brought to this journal an extensive background in a wide variety of experimental techniques, especially those applicable to high temperature aqueous solution measurements. We have overlapping mutual scientific interests that resulted in five joint journal publications.

Earle Waghorne, our incoming editor, will be familiar to many of the readers of this journal because of his numerous publications in mixed solvent solution chemistry and his long standing involvement with the IUPAC Subcommittee of Solubility and Equilibrium Data and their International Symposia on Solubility Phenomena. Earle is currently the Head, School of Chemistry and Chemical Biology, University College Dublin and has had some previous editorial experience with the Institute of Chemistry of Ireland.

I thank my colleague, friend, and co-editor Don Palmer for his six years of dedicated service to this journal and hope that he will continue to provide us with his expertise and advice to help guide the Journal of Solution Chemistry into the future. I also welcome our new editor Earle Waghorne to this new stage of his career.