

Open Commission Meetings

of a journal supported by reader subscriptions. The emphasis of *Section C* continues to be the rapid publication of full papers describing one or more interesting or unusual crystal structures in significant detail. High-quality detailed studies of novel and challenging crystal and molecular structures of interest in the fields of chemistry, biochemistry, mineralogy, pharmacology, physics and materials science are invited. *Section C* published 404 papers in 2005, 466 papers in 2006 and 451 papers in 2007. Publication times are now consistently between 1 and 2 months and the citation impact factor has risen from 0.78 in 2005 to 0.90 in 2007. Some 52% of original technically correct submissions to *Section C* in 2007 were subsequently withdrawn or rejected; the withdrawal/rejection rate was 50% in 2006 and 58% in 2005. The principal reason for withdrawal or rejection was either that the text in the Comment section of the CIF was deemed not to provide any 'significant added value to the numerical data freely available in the CIF' or that the submitted material was not in accord with the instructions in Notes for Authors. To assist Co-editors with the initial review of submissions it is now a requirement that the submitting author provide in the `_publ_contact_letter` section of the CIF a brief statement of what is novel or interesting about the structure(s) that merits publication in *Section C*. Authors are also asked to clearly state in the Abstract the potential scientific impact of the study. Details of the changes implemented in the past triennium will be discussed along with possible future initiatives.

Keywords: Acta crystallographica section C, IUCr journals

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Acta crystallographica section D: Biological crystallography

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Acta D is dedicated to the still-expanding field of biological crystallography. The last triennium has seen a change in the focus, following the launch of our all-electronic sister journal *Acta F*. With this change, *Acta D* no longer publishes crystallization papers or routine structure reports. Our focus is on methods in biological crystallography and on structural papers that bring new insights into biology, chemistry or macromolecular structure. The two journals have settled into a good working relationship, with only a few papers falling on the borderline between them. Most of the latter are of the crystallization paper/methods type. *Acta D* has continued to publish many important methodological papers, and the special issue dedicated to the CCP4 Study Weekend series provides a high-profile first issue to each year. We also continue to receive a steady flow of quality structural papers. It is of some concern that our impact factor remains low, at about 1.7, and that we do not receive many truly high-profile structural papers; competition with biological journals has become more intense. On the other hand, the quality of production of the journal is very high, speed of publication is good (about 4.5 months), and the journal remains the premier forum for discussion of practice and policy in biological crystallography. In this respect *Acta D* is looked on as important and influential. We believe we have an opportunity to build on this standing through more topical reviews, commentaries and talking points.

Keywords: Acta crystallographica section D, IUCr journals, biological crystallography

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Acta crystallographica section E: Structure reports online

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For the three years 2005-2007 the main headlines for *Acta E* are significant growth, and major changes in the format and publication model. The journal has seen large increases every year in the number of papers submitted and published: 2887 papers were published in 2005, 3991 in 2006, and 5181 in 2007. In order to deal with this growth, additional Co-editors have been appointed from time to time, the current number of 58 being almost double what it was at the end of 2004. Extra editorial staff resources have also been allocated to *Acta E* in the Chester office. It has been possible to keep the average time from submission to publication below one month. Following the 2006 IUCr Executive Committee decision to change *Acta E* to an open access journal, much work has been done to prepare for this major move. The cost and time involved in editing manuscripts, preparing proofs, and generating the final published articles was significantly reduced with the introduction of a shorter format in early 2007 for the page-numbered part of each paper, together with enhanced HTML and PDF supplements for most of the other material supplied by authors (except for structure factors, which are made available as a simple file in CIF format). The program *pubCIF* was developed and made freely available as a tool for authors and Co-editors in preparing raw CIFs for publication and handling them, and has proved very popular and useful. The open access model was introduced near the end of 2007, and makes the journal freely available to all without subscription; a modest charge is levied on authors, and there are waiver and discount schemes to encourage publication and avoid problems for authors in developing countries. The end of this three-year period thus marks the biggest change for *Acta E* since its launch in 2001.

Keywords: Acta crystallographica section E, IUCr journals, open access

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Acta crystallographica section F: Structural biology and crystallization communications

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Acta Crystallographica Section F, Structural Biology and Crystallization Communications was launched in January 2005 as an online journal for rapid publication of structure and crystallization communications on biological macromolecules. The journal is covered by Medline and other leading abstracting and indexing services and is expected to receive its first impact factor in 2008. The journal published its first structure determined by NMR in 2006 and the following year the Editors were instrumental in updating the standards for publication of NMR structures in IUCr journals. In 2005-2007 the journal published 938 papers and 3492 pages, and publication times remain rapid at 2.4 months. To decrease publication times further, new tools have now been developed to allow authors