

Besides the celebration of JBCS 20th anniversary, 2009 will also bring some changes to our journal. After almost ten years as JBCS Editor, in charge of the Inorganic Chemistry area, Prof. Maria Vargas is leaving us in order to dedicate herself to her other professional activities. As an Editor, Maria has had decisive participation in a large number of events during JBCS maturing phase: in the preparation and implementation of the on-line manuscript submission and processing system, with unceasing efforts to prepare manuscript standardization instructions, mainly in aspects such as the deposit of crystalline structures in databases, and has continuously tried to improve the journal and make it better known. We are grateful to Maria for all her priceless help, tireless enthusiasm and commitment to JBCS and we wish her continuous success in her career, certain that we can go on counting on her support.

In this reformulation process, Prof. Jaísa F. Soares will take over as Editor and we will have two new Associate Editors: Profs. Adriano Lisboa Monteiro and Koiti Araki, whom we welcome and from whom we expect a great deal of help and constant new ideas.

Our Editorial Office will also have some changes: Dr. Elizabeth Magalhães is leaving us, temporarily we expect, and her duties will be taken on by Dr. Angela R. Custodio, who has already been part of the team. All those who have, in a way or other, been involved in the JBCS-related activities know the importance Beth has had and still has for the maintenance and improvement of its editorial activities, always optimistically and in good humor. We will miss this close professional relationship.

In 2009, we will also have two special issues: one celebrating JBCS 20th anniversary, with

contributions from those who have been more closely related to the journal all these years, either in editorial activities or as distinguished authors or referees. The other issue will have the Amazon Region as the main theme, which brings back the idea of publishing special issues on current relevant themes.

Looking back at the 2008 activities (and foreseeing the 2009 ones), we can see that we have reached a rather constant number of submissions, still predominantly from foreign authors and that, as a result from the efforts made, the average time for publishing the manuscripts was reduced to levels close to the ones reached in 2006, before the sudden raise in the number of submitted manuscripts that have occurred since then. More complete data and updated statistics can be found in <http://jbc.ssbq.org.br/stats/09>. Thus we expect to have a constant increase in the manuscript processing speed in the future, a permanent objective on the Editors' part and a justifiable wish on the authors' part.

JBCS citation numbers in 2008 indicate that we shall once more maintain an outstanding position in relation to the ISI Impact Factor, consolidating, then, the position we have had lately, which is very important, mainly in the moment that the funding agencies are discussing the scientific journals quality rating and in which numerical aspects sometimes come to have an excessive importance. Far from being surprising, these positive findings simply confirm the success that is being achieved by our journal, allowing us to pose a new question for the future: what are JBCS new challenges and goals?

**Watson Loh** (Unicamp)  
*Editor JBCS*