

## EDITORIAL

# Welcome to the New Year!

### Editor-in-Chief

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I have the privilege of taking over from Professor Gordon Donaldson as Editor-in-Chief of *Superconductor Science and Technology* (*SuST*) for the next two years. During the last ten years, he has refereed several thousand papers and ensured that *SuST* has the highest impact factor of any specialist journal in the field. It is a pleasure to take this opportunity to thank him on behalf of our whole community.

It is a great time to be involved with superconductivity. Following the physics Nobel prize in 2003 for pioneering contributions to the theory of superconductivity and superfluidity, many of us hope that another Nobel prize will be awarded for contributions to superconductivity when the mechanism that causes high temperature superconductivity (HTS) is explained. The mechanism for HTS currently provides one of the most important challenges for basic science. We also have the successes associated with large-scale superconducting systems including the LHC and the \$10 billion ITER fusion tokamak to look forward to. Since the management of energy resources will be one of the critical issues in the 21st century, superconductivity will have an important contribution to make to the development of new technologies. It is one of the exciting and rewarding aspects of research in superconductivity where many world-class basic and applied research groups collaborate. In this context, *SuST* is well-positioned to broaden the scope and appeal of the journal and publish the best papers in both the science and technology of superconductivity.

I would like to encourage scientists in all fields of superconductivity to submit their papers to the journal. Here are three reasons why *SuST* has already become the leading specialist journal in superconductivity:

- The average publication time, if your paper is accepted, is around 80 days from submission to online publication;
- All papers published are free to download from the web for 30 days from publication;
- *SuST* has the highest impact factor of all journals specialising in superconductivity.

Further improvements, implemented from this January issue onwards, include:

- The introduction of article numbering which will speed up the publication process. Papers in different issues can be published online as soon as they are ready, without having to wait for a whole issue or section to be allocated page numbers. This will improve submission to publication times.
- Bringing the journal into line with other IOP journals so that reports from two referees are required for each paper prior to an acceptance/rejection decision.
- Refreshing the design of *SuST*'s cover, modernising the typography and creating a consistent look and feel across the range of journals.

Naturally we have also been asking how *SuST* and IOP Publishing can help the superconductivity community meet the challenges of the future and maintain the broad international readership that supports *SuST*. Clearly a specialist journal like *SuST* has a very different role in our community from general science journals such as *Science* and *Nature*. However the superconductivity community would benefit if publication in *SuST* brought with it the prestige of a yet higher impact factor, comparable to the very best physics, chemistry and engineering journals. In this context, I have identified the following aims for the Editorial Board:

- To increase the impact factor of *SuST*;
- To broaden the scope and size of the journal by increasing its profile and publishing the best papers in superconductivity— both in basic science and in technology;
- To improve the refereeing process by eliminating the tail of low impact papers submitted to *SuST* and reducing the time from submission to online availability;
- To make *SuST* the natural place to publish invited papers from the best of the community's pure and applied conferences and workshops;
- To improve the effectiveness of the Editorial Board;
- To improve the services that IOP Publishing provides for the superconductivity community.

I am looking forward to working with IOP— one of the fabulous (not-for-profit) learned societies in the UK. IOP has a long tradition of supporting world-class international science in both the developed and developing world.

It just remains for me to say that I am very much looking forward to working with you in the future and welcome any suggestions that will help to ensure that *SuST* remains essential reading for anyone working in superconductivity.