



Advancing the Science

Later this year ECS is going to introduce a new system that will complete the “electronic workflow” of the scientific manuscripts published in the ECS journals. The software is called Peer-X-Press or PXP, and it is a completely integrated system for online manuscript submission and online peer review. The technology in PXP is expensive, but the benefits significant. It will provide an important set of editorial tools, enabling faster, more efficient working conditions for the nine-member, international ECS Editorial Board.

The value to ECS members should also be significant because the lag time for both the *Journal of The Electrochemical Society* (JES) and *Electrochemical and Solid-State Letters* (ESL) will be improved by as much as two months. In other words, members will be receiving the best and most current scientific information on electrochemical and solid-state science even faster. The two ECS journals have the highest ranking in the field, according to the 2001 ISI Scientific Citation Index, and the improved speed and efficiency should make the journals even more attractive to authors and readers.

Speed from submission to publication is an essential criterion for any successful scientific publication, and we have worked hard to keep our lag times low. Quality and relevancy are also important, and we have invested in the best editorial board in the world. Accessibility and distribution are also key. We have made the journals available in all the necessary formats (paper, CD-ROM, and electronic), and we have made them highly functional and available to broader audiences through our online publishing capabilities. We keep the content alive by making the electronic archives of the journals openly available to all members (starting with the 1998 edition of ESL and the 1999 edition of JES). The ECS journals are at the forefront in all these publishing criteria, and it is our members who have benefited the most. Our members have access to a rapidly-growing archive of scientific information, enabling their work in untold ways.

These publication advancements have dramatically improved the value of our entire membership benefits package, and these additions have been instituted without any increase in the cost of our membership dues. The last increase was in 1994, when the active membership dues were increased from \$85 to \$90. All the new benefits mentioned above have essentially occurred since 1998, and the cost of member benefits now significantly exceeds the \$90 active and \$10 student annual dues that our members are assessed. To enable all of our members to have that access to the journals, the ECS Board of Directors consistently has acted to minimize the membership dues. This has had the added effect of increased distribution of the journals and a wider readership. Broadening the dissemination of the content is an important factor in the Society’s century-old mission: to advance solid-state and electrochemical science.

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In this issue of *Interface*, we have published our second article in a series about the Society’s Centennial Campaign, explaining how the funds raised in the Centennial Campaign will be used to support ECS programs. It is only through sources such as the Centennial Campaign that we will be able to regulate the dues and fees for all Society programs. Please take the time to read the Centennial Campaign article, and if you are in a position to give, please be generous. Your support will help all members continue to advance the science. ■

Roque Calvo
Executive Director