



Legacy and Challenges

It gives me great pleasure, in this, my first address to the readership as Editor of the *Journal of The Electrochemical Society* (JES), to pay tribute to Paul Kohl, my immediate predecessor. Paul's involvement with Society publications began as Editor of *Interface*, the then emerging, and now widely successful ECS members' magazine. He went on to become JES Editor, and along the way, launched the Society's second technical journal, *Electrochemical and Solid-State Letters*. Since Paul's appointment as JES Editor twelve years ago, the number of submissions has increased by about 50%, while the number of technical pages published has almost doubled, to reach this past year an all time high approaching 6,500. In response to the extraordinary growth of electrochemistry worldwide, as eloquently illustrated in that 75% of all papers published in JES in 2007 were from non-U.S. researchers, Paul appointed as many non-U.S. as U.S. Associate Editors to the Board of JES: two from Europe and two from Asia. The experience I gained working under Paul's mentorship during the ten years I have held the position of Associate Editor will certainly be invaluable in meeting the challenges I will face as Editor in years to come.

Most complex among the problems at hand is the rather recent rise in the importance of metrical parameters to assess the impact of scientific publications, as well as the scientific impact of the authors themselves. Although not as prevalent in the U.S. (yet), impact indices are being used increasingly around the globe to reduce subjectivity in the evaluation of the performance of members of academia and other institutions. Although enhanced transparency when making involved decisions about salary raises and/or promotions is certainly a laudable goal, the lucrative business of scientific publications has unleashed marketing forces that are affecting the very nature and quality of the material being printed.

Competitiveness is not to be viewed as undesirable when it comes to improving the ways in which scientific information is disseminated; but the tactics undertaken should be carefully scrutinized not to transgress the ethical confines we as a Society must uphold. We at ECS are making every effort to develop and implement novel and effective strategies to raise the impact indices of our own publications—not to merely and artificially manipulate the numbers—but for the benefit of our contributing authors and general readership. It is our firm belief that success in this worthy endeavor can come only from excellence, both in the evaluation process as well as in the technical content of our published articles. Many of the planned changes to be instituted during the coming months are expected to further expedite the reviewing process, as well as reduce production lag times, making papers available to our readership in a minimum of time. I wish to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the members of the Editorial Board of the ECS journals and to the hundreds of dedicated and anonymous reviewers. We will all continue to work together to maintain the high editorial standards for the continuing success of the *Journal of The Electrochemical Society* and the electrochemical and solid-state community at large.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel A. Scherson', written in a cursive style.

Daniel A. Scherson
Editor

