

JMR Announces Major Reduction in Publication Time Among Other Changes

Several major improvements to the *Journal of Materials Research (JMR)* and its operations should enhance the quality and timeliness of the journal. The highlights of the improvements include a reduction of more than seven months in the average publication time and an increase in the quality of published papers.

Statistics for the last four months of 1999 show that the average time required to publish an article, that is, the time from submission to publication, has been reduced to 9.5 months from 17 months a year ago, with 80% of the articles published in 12 months or less. This improvement resulted from several factors: (1) a six-month backlog of manuscripts, which had been accepted and were awaiting publication, was eliminated by printing several expanded issues; (2) the time required for reviewing and revising manuscripts has been reduced on the average by more than one month by tightening time limits for each step of the process; and (3) the production time after a manuscript has been accepted, which includes copy editing, typesetting, printing, and mailing, was reduced by more than two months by combining all these operations under one roof.

To enhance the quality of published papers, standards and requirements for acceptance of articles have been raised, and review procedures have been tightened.

Some *JMR* publication delays resulted from an inadequate software system for tracking manuscripts. To allow efficient tracking of manuscripts through all phases of the editorial and publication processes, the editorial office recently installed new software. The enhanced capabilities of the new software will identify manuscripts that are overdue in each stage of the review and publication processes and send memoranda to the individuals responsible. It will also enable generation of statistics on how well the journal is doing and identify where improvements need to be made. With these capabilities, *JMR* expects to reduce the review time still further.

JMR subscribers may now access the full text of the journal electronically on the MRS website several weeks before the print edition is available. All papers, including figures and micrographs, appear online. This benefit is available only to individuals and institutions that subscribe to *JMR*.

MRS members will continue to be able to view *JMR* rapid communications and *JMR Abstracts* online. *JMR Abstracts* service provides titles, abstracts, author names and their affiliations for all articles and rapid communications approximately one month prior to the publication date of the journal. Beginning with this issue of the *MRS Bulletin*, instead of the full text of each *JMR* abstract, only the title and author listing for each article appears in print. In addition to each title and author listing, a direct link through the MRS website is provided to view the abstract online. See *JMR Abstracts* on page 71 to view the change.

As *JMR* begins its 15th year of publication, the hard work and dedication of all the editors and the editorial staff at MRS Headquarters have positioned *JMR* to serve the international materials research community as its leading archival journal. Members of the materials community are urged to submit their research findings to *JMR* for publication.

ROBERT P. FRANKENTHAL
Editor-in-Chief
Journal of Materials Research

Undergraduate Materials Research Initiative Funds 40 Projects

In the second year of the Materials Research Society's Undergraduate Materials Research Initiative (UMRI), coordinated by the MRS Academic Affairs Committee, 40 undergraduate student projects have been chosen to receive a \$1,000 grant each to support the students' materials-related projects. MRS also presented Honorable Mentions. Beth Stadler of the University of Minnesota and chair of the Academic Affairs Committee said that the number of awards has doubled from

last year's. The award recipients for 1999 and 2000 will be acknowledged at the 2000 MRS Spring Meeting in San Francisco when their posters are displayed at the Education Workshop symposium.

The UMRI program was designed to introduce undergraduate students to the excitement of discovery through research in materials science and engineering. Under the program, a grant of no more than \$750 is provided for the cost of a moderate research project. An additional

award of \$250 is payable directly to the undergraduate researchers upon completion of the project. Researchers from small institutions are particularly encouraged in order to attract promising students to materials research who might not have other funding available.

The awards for 2000 were announced in November 1999, and the list of recipients was posted at the 1999 MRS Fall Meeting in Boston.

Undergraduate Materials Research Initiative Grant Recipients

Oludurotimi Adetunji
Characterization of High Temperature Solution Growth of Cr₂+CdSe
Fisk University
Jean-Oliver Ndap, Advisor

Daniel Allen
Blend-Based Photovoltaic Devices
Cornell University
George Malliaras, Advisor

Melinda Allen
Materials Analysis with Rutherford Backscattering Spectrometry
Colorado School of Mines
Uwe Greife and Peter Sutter, Advisors

Ilke Arslan
Developing an Atomic Scale Understanding of the Structure Property Relationships of Dislocation Cores in GaN
University of Illinois, Chicago
Nigel D. Browning, Advisor

Scott Barry
Investigation of a New Four-Layer Ruthenium-Based Cuprate, Ru₂LnSr₂Ln'Cu₂O₁₁ (Ru-2312) (Ln = Lanthanide)
Beloit College
George Lisensky, Advisor

Elvin Beach
Investigation of the Effects of Relative

Humidity Level on Adhesion Forces between Pharmaceutical Powders and Storage Surface Materials using Atomic Force Microscopy
Michigan Technological University
Jaroslav Drelich, Advisor

Douglas Burnett
Pulse Plating of Ultrathin-Layered Magnetic Films
Washington State University
KNona C. Liddell, Advisor

Blaine Butler
Influence of Substrate Surface Chemistry on the Binding of DNA-RecA Protein Complexes

James Madison University
Brian H. Augustine, Advisor

Kerianne Cullen
DNA Detection using Colloidal Gold Nanoparticles: Toward near Patient DNA Diagnostics
Virginia Commonwealth University
Anthony Guiseppi-Elie, Advisor

Niall Donnelly
Measurement of Electromechanical Strain in PMN-PT Thin Film Structures
Queens University, Belfast
J.M. Gregg, Advisor