



Editorial

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To cite this article: Yuntian T. Zhu, Quanxi Jia, Michel W. Barsoum, Suveen Mathaudhu, Amit Misra, Cenwen Nan & Dierk Raabe (2013) Editorial, Materials Research Letters, 1:1, 1-2, DOI: 10.1080/21663831.2013.779091

To link to this article: <https://doi.org/10.1080/21663831.2013.779091>



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Published online: 12 Mar 2013.



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Editorial

Don't be satisfied with stories of how things have gone with others. Unfold your own myth. (Rumi)

Currently, there are over one hundred journals that publish papers on topics related to materials science, engineering and technology, and in recent years, the trend for new journals in these areas does not appear to be slowing down. So the question must be asked: *Why would we need another materials journal?*

To answer this question, consider the following: most high-impact, fast-communication journals that publish materials-related papers are chemistry- or physics-oriented, and supported by their respective technical societies. As such, the editors, who often come from these communities, might not be aware of broader aspects of materials science. This sometimes leads to scenarios in which papers of marginal value to material science get published, while papers with significant breakthroughs and discoveries in materials science and engineering are rejected. This problem is currently compounded by the fact that there are no fast-communication journals in the materials science community that have the impact factor and prestige of those from the chemistry and physics community, such as *Physical Review Letters*, *Nano Letters* and others. This significantly limits rapid reporting of many important materials science findings. With this in mind, we introduce a new fast publication, high-impact journal for the materials research community, and most importantly, by the materials research community: *Materials Research Letters (MRL)*.

There are a number of factors that render *MRL* unique within the plethora of the existing journals.

Distinguished Editorial Review Board: While the journal will benefit from having editors from the materials science community, we recognize that there will be many submissions that do not necessarily fall into areas of their expertise. The purpose of the Editorial Review Board is to provide the Editorial Office with expert opinions on the submissions, and to arbitrate controversial reviews. This will avoid the scenario of editors prescreening papers that

are not in their expertise area, and ensure a fair review for every paper.

Multiple Reviewers: Paper will be evaluated by at least two impartial experts in the field. Conflicting reviews may be arbitrated by an Editorial Review Board member.

Rapid Review and Dissemination: The *MRL* editors and publishers are fully committed to ensuring that submissions have the fastest turn-around time possible, such that they are available for dissemination and citation in a timely manner. Papers that are not appropriate for publication will be returned within a few days so as to not limit other publishing possibilities.

We expect that these features will be of tremendous benefit to researchers from the broad materials science community, and the objective of the new journal will be simple: *rapid reporting of novel and significant materials science and engineering discoveries and phenomena*. Materials of interest include, but are not limited to, structural materials (ceramics, metals, polymers, composite materials, etc.), energy materials (materials for applications in solar energy, battery, fuel cell, hydrogen storage, nuclear energy, etc.), functional materials (electronic materials, magnetic materials, optical materials, etc.) and low-dimensional materials (tubes, wires, ribbons, sheets, etc.). The journal scope would include:

- Significant breakthroughs in fundamental materials science.
- Materials with unprecedented mechanical and physical properties.
- Materials with novel functionalities.
- Novel and significant breakthrough in materials processing and synthesis.
- Significant breakthroughs in materials characterization.
- Novel materials structures.

MRL publishes three types of papers: *Original Reports* that report on novel research results, invited *Perspectives* that give prospective, provocative and visionary opinions

and views, invited *Brief Overviews* of state-of-the-art of research areas, discussion of fundamental fallacies, unproven assumptions and issues.

What you have in front of you is the inaugural issue of *MRL*; we hope this is the first of many. We thank you for your interest and sincerely invite you and your colleagues to submit your significant research papers to *MRL*. With the strength of the ever-growing materials science research community, we are confident that this journal will prove to be a great success.

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