

Inorganic Chemistry: A Celebration of Diversity!

How would you explain “inorganic chemistry” to your neighbor next door? How exactly would you try to summarize the broad variety and large diversity of compounds that immediately hit your mind upon this question? You might refer to the salt dispenser on your table first, and talk a bit about rock salt as well as the potassium fluoride and iodate added to it for health reasons. In the next moment, you might notice the coins in your pocket that you carried home from the bakery, indicating that these are made from clever alloys of different metals, allowing for their particular properties and values, exactly like the wheel rims of your bike from which you just dismounted (while the handlebar stem and steering headset have caught some iron oxide rust recently). As the streetlights turn off in that moment, you can also explain to your neighbor that several inorganic compounds—including ones comprising rare-earth metal ions—are used as phosphors in their light-emitting-diode bulbs, whereas in older times sodium or mercury vapor would have served as an emissive gas in some of them. Both of you would sink into nostalgia in memory of the beautiful neon signs used for advertisements some decades ago, but the bright light of the halogen lamps from a car driving by, in which traces of bromine and iodine allow heating of the tungsten wire filament to high temperatures, will get you back to the present; you happily realize that the car is an electric car powered by a high-tech lithium-ion battery. Your neighbor has to say goodbye in order to answer their smartphone, which requires that the display made with a transparent but conductive indium–titanium oxide layer is touched. The plastic bag you carry while slipping through your front door finally reminds you of the fact that the low-pressure polymerization of ethylene to make polyethylene, catalyzed by a combination of triethylaluminum, magnesium chloride, and titanium chloride, is representative of the extensive use of a large diversity of metal compounds in catalytic processes that lay the foundation of everyday products.

This little (hypothetical) episode that many of you might know in similar form from your own experiences indicates three things: First and foremost, inorganic chemistry is everywhere and an indispensable part of our lives; no other field of chemistry can claim that it makes use of the elements of the whole periodic table for creative synthetic work! Second, as a consequence, rather popular inorganic compounds such as those mentioned above are only a tiny fraction of what is actually going on in the broad and ever-growing field of inorganic chemistry research. Third, it is essential that we disseminate our collective knowledge as well as the impact of the newest findings in our field across boundaries, not just to our fellow chemists but to scientists in other disciplines as well as people outside chemistry; the world needs new ideas for the

development of new technologies that lead to new products in more environmentally sound and sustainable ways.

Inorganic Chemistry, this journal, is the ideal platform that brings together different aspects of our multifaceted field and allows us to discuss the most critical topics and their anticipated global impact in the chemical (and nonchemical) world. Of course, we do not expect that many nonchemists read the journal (although that would be something indeed), but we expect that we all augment our knowledge in a way that enhances the impact of today’s research for everyone’s good. On this foundation, inorganic chemistry thrives and will continue to thrive and one day may even be constantly on your neighbors’ minds.

As the new Editor-in-Chief, I will do my best to foster the role that this journal can play here. But first, I want to point out that, thanks to the excellent leadership of outgoing Editor-in-Chief William B. Tolman, *Inorganic Chemistry* is currently doing very well and is at the top of its game; therefore, not just me as his successor but the whole community owes him a lot of gratitude. Thank you very much, Bill, for having been an exemplary leader of *Inorganic Chemistry* for [the past 10 years](#)! I also extend a warm thank you to Bonnie Gruen, who has been an exceptional Journal Office Administrator, coordinating activities in the EIC office during Bill’s tenure! Both of you made *Inorganic Chemistry* a safe harbor for our authors’ articles to dock and continue sailing.


My dream for *Inorganic Chemistry* is that the journal be the first choice for high-level publications by chemists of all facets of inorganic chemistry. This includes both the typical topics, such as unique main-group compounds, functional coordination compounds, advanced catalysts, and high-value solid-state chemistry, as well as the newer branches that extend to the nanoworld, to sophisticated functional materials, and to biological as well as medical applications of inorganic compounds. What unites all of our articles is that inorganic chemistry is needed for answering the central question of the respective study. The many different article types and diverse ways of how to combine them in general or special issues offers the right format for every interesting contribution.

Yet, nowadays, science is much more than just science. We have responsibilities of how to do science, how to collaborate,

and how to communicate with our colleagues. This includes how to document what we are doing in a transparent and easily accessible way. As the first female Editor-in-Chief of *Inorganic Chemistry*, and the first one from outside the U.S., I would therefore like to emphasize that, in addition to our openness to topics at the interface of neighboring disciplines, a key focus and responsibility is our openness to the diversity of the scientists involved. Bill has been a champion for diversity during his years with the journal; see any of a number of [editorials that explore diversity in all its forms](#). I envision to continue and increase our efforts to ensure that all authors have the opportunity to publish with us and gain visibility for their work—both the established ones and the more inexperienced ones whom we are happy to help get started in publishing. We are planning to have even more cross-cutting issues in the future to illustrate that we think across borders of all kinds. Also we are always reviewing and refining our [Author Guidelines](#) and most importantly our [Ethical Guidelines](#), which for all ACS journals strongly endorse FAIR Data Principles. Of course, quality comes first, but it is not quality alone that makes a manuscript worthy of publication.

In summary, I am thrilled and feel deep gratitude to be given the exceptional chance to lead and co-shape this wonderful platform for publishing high-level inorganic chemical research in and toward the future. I am excited to collaborate with a terrific [team of Associate Editors](#), an outstanding Managing Editor, and a wonderful new Journal Office Administrator, all of whom do a fantastic job, and—besides editing your manuscripts—come up with great ideas as to how to constantly renew the journal, its formats and content, and also our thoughts of what inorganic chemistry actually is and will be.

I look forward to many great contributions to our field and hope to meet you all in person on various occasions in the near future.

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