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# Journal of Catalysis

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## Editorial

### A farewell (of sorts)

As we usher in this new year, I pass on my caretaking duties as Editor-in-Chief to Johannes Lercher. I leave Journal of Catalysis with a heavy heart, much akin to that we feel when our own grown children, their independence earned, need us no longer in the same context or to the same extent. Then, we get to think and feel in the more private setting of the emptier nest and to attend to matters that we postponed or neglected. I step away from a healthy and vibrant Journal of Catalysis, a venue for excellence supported by a dedicated team of editors and publishers and by a strong and growing catalysis community. I leave the journal in excellent hands. I leave with you the message that I was given as I arrived – to mind matters of rigor and scholarship, to preserve the best science in our discipline for later generations, to bring together creativity with thoughtfulness, and to bridge history with its future by archiving both. I remember these marching orders well, because I was in awe of the formidable tasks at hand.

In this role, I have enjoyed a view of the field from a vantage point of unparalleled clarity and perspective at a point in time of unprecedented intellectual growth for our discipline. Catalysis has evolved throughout its history, and especially during the last decade, from an enabling toolbox at the crossroads of diverse practical applications into a rigorous science in its own right. Our community continues to provide the science and the enabling tools in the supply and conversion of energy carriers, in the processing of fuels, chemicals, and pharmaceuticals, and in preserving and improving quality of life and environmental health. As a discipline, we have grown in visibility, research support, and intellectual density; the growth continues, urged forth by new concepts and tools and by emerging societal needs, as well as by a spectacular legacy of practical success.

The perspective and view that I have enjoyed will remain with me as part of who I am and of how I carry forth, as I now rejoin the community as a more private citizen. I have enjoyed the support and advice of many members of the Editorial Board throughout my tenure and I have gotten closer to them, scientifically and personally. I have learned much from a talented and dedicated cadre of Editors, both present (Graham Hutchings, Johannes Lercher, Matt Neurock, Hans Niemanstverdriet, Ted Oyama) and past (Al Vannice, Daniel Resasco, Jim Dumesic, Wayne Goodman). I am especially indebted to Roel Prins for his advice and counsel, for

the example of rigor and statesmanship that he set for all of us, and for his tireless dedication to the quality and scholarship of the Journal, first as co-Editor-in-Chief and then as the steward of our contributions from Asia. I speak with the grateful voice of our community in acknowledging the dedication and the contributions of these individuals and in expressing to all of them my own personal thanks.

During these last twelve years, I have made many difficult decisions about technical and ethical issues and struggled with sensitive matters of balance and fairness. I have seen human nature, in its brighter and darker shades, and learned, to my respective relief and chagrin, that such shades make no exception for science or its scientists. The decisions made were not always perfect or well-received, but I hope that they were thoughtful and I know that they were always well-meant. I fear that I may have lost some friends, but I hope that I have gained the respect of others by judging fairly and thoughtfully. I can vouch only for the fact that I have tried in earnest.

The time spent has been well-spent, but it has been spent at the expense of family and friends and of time not otherwise spent. I must now dedicate myself to the latter. I am indebted in particular to my biological and academic families, whose patience and understanding supported me through these years and which I cherish and value.

I leave as Editor-in-Chief with my best wishes to our catalysis community. I am grateful for your support throughout these years, for trusting me to serve as caretaker, and for helping, as authors and reviewers, to maintain the standard of excellence that is synonymous with Journal of Catalysis. From here on, our research group will continue to contribute to the success of the Journal, as authors and reviewers, with science and judgment that meet the standards that the Journal has set for us.

Thanks for the memories and farewell.

Enrique Iglesia  
Editor-in-Chief  
Berkeley, CA, United States  
E-mail address: [Eiglesia@aol.com](mailto:Eiglesia@aol.com)