

From the Editor's Desk

We are in the centenary year of our Institute and the journal will make all the efforts to be on the forefront of publications from the Institute. We shall be working closely with the newly formed IISc press in this context. At the outset, I would like to welcome the members of the newly formed editorial board. This newly constituted editorial board has been actively working out the details of getting the journal to be a part of the Elsevier publications and to see that the review mode journal also gets listed in the Science Direct. In fact the publishers themselves approached us in this context and negotiations are almost at the final stages and hopefully we shall have the journal added onto Science direct as soon as possible. The review mode has attracted the attention of several groups and we are happy that the issues for the year 2009 are already booked. Based on the suggestions from our Director, Professor Balaram, we have also embarked upon publishing a special issue to consist of selected publications of IISc during the period 1907 to 1957, the first fifty years of IISc, as apart of the centenary celebrations. We have requested a panel of senior professors to help us in selecting the contributions for this special issue which will be brought out as the next issue.

T. N. Guru Row
Editor

Editorial

I had indicated that the first issue in this series (Journal of the Indian Institute of Science, April-June 2007) was not sufficient to cover all the key areas of current advances in the field of crystallography and a second one will be brought out in 2008. Research in crystallography is vibrant in India and several new groups have joined in their research endeavors and this issue tries to focus on new and emerging areas. Thus the current issue covers a range of topics which include biological crystallography, materials research, bioinformatics and crystal engineering. I have once again collected reviews from leading researchers as before and the emphasis in this issue is on a wide variety of techniques on a spectrum of materials, from biology to material science. This issue begins with a review on Structural variations in Z-DNA (*P. K. Mandal, S. Venkadesh and N. Gautham*) followed by a review on the work done at BARC entitled "HIV-1 Protease crystallography at BARC" (*M. V. Hosur and Vishal Prashar*). The next review deals with the crystal engineering aspects related to molecular self assemblies entitled "Crystal engineering with sterically-hindered molecular modules: unique supramolecular synthons and novel molecular self assembly" (*Jarugu Narasimha Moorthy*). There is a considerable effort in recent times to look and analyze information on biomolecules and the authors *Yeturu Kalidas and Nagasuma Chandra* describe the features in their review Structural Bioinformatics: Transforming protein structures into biological insights. The review by *Srinivasan Natarajan and Partha Mahata* gives an overview on the status of Inorganic Structures and Nets in Metal-Organic Frameworks (MOF). V.A. Raghunathan describes the details of the studies on Mesh phases of surfactant-water systems in his review, which brings out another hot area of research pursued in crystallographic science in recent years. The last two articles review the current status of research in materials engineering. Rajeev Ranjan deals with "Subtle Structural Distortions in Some Dielectric Perovskites" while Satyam Suwas and Nilesh P. Gurao discuss "Crystallographic texture in Materials".

The two issues bringing "Recent trends in crystallographic research: the Indian Scenario-I & II" are aimed at providing the readers a global view of areas of research pursued by crystallographers in India. Once again, there are several other areas which are also pursued and practiced by crystallographers which might not have been covered and are by no means less important.

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