

## First Impact Factor for *ACS Photonics*: 5.404

Harry A. Atwater, Editor-in-Chief

California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California 91125, United States

As we head into the summer conference season, I am writing to you with some interesting news from *ACS Photonics*. This month, Thomson Reuters Incites Journal Citation Report published journal impact factors for 2016, and *ACS Photonics* received its debut impact factor of 5.404. This impact factor is an early indicator that *ACS Photonics* has already established itself among the top tier of photonics-focused journals. Impact factor (IF) is a statistic that relates the frequency at which papers published in the journal for a two year period have been cited in a single calendar year. For the 2016 IF, which was released this year, the number relates the number of citations in 2016 to papers published in 2014 and 2015. Because *ACS Photonics* first published issues in 2014, the first IF for the journal considered papers published only in 2014. In contrast, the IF for journals that are more than two years old considers two years of publications. Because of this difference, journals often achieve a substantial positive change in the IF between their first and second publication years, after which more subtle changes typically occur from year to year.

While the IF should not be used as a surrogate for the overall quality of the journal, it can be used to compare, within a specific field, how often papers in the journal are read and/or cited by the scientific community relative to its peer group. In this regard, we are very pleased with the first IF for *ACS Photonics*, as it demonstrates that the journal has rapidly become an important new asset to the worldwide photonics community. It has been exciting for me to see the journal grow as it reaches toward its goal of being a premier venue for rapid publication of leading interdisciplinary research work in photonics, spanning physics, chemistry, and engineering.

This early success is a reflection of the dynamism and vibrancy of the global photonics research enterprise and its expanding impact in the whole scientific community. Of course, our journey is just beginning, so we count on your continued engagement and support to make working with *ACS Photonics* as an author, reviewer, and reader to be a great experience and to help us improve all aspects of the journal's operation. Please send us your best research work, give us your best advice and suggestions, tell us what you like (and do not) about logistics and what is published, and tell others in the photonics community about us.

On behalf of the editorial team of Teri Odom, Stefan Maier, Romain Quidant, and Ted Sargent, as well as managing editor Carlos Toro, I want to thank our authors, referees, and readers, who have helped to quickly establish *ACS Photonics* as a top journal in the field.

### ■ AUTHOR INFORMATION

#### Notes

Views expressed in this editorial are those of the author and not necessarily the views of the ACS.

Received: June 29, 2016

Accepted: June 29, 2016

Published: July 20, 2016

