ACS Nano and Nano Letters, Partners in Leading Nanoscience and Nanotechnology

As the fields of nanoscience and nanotechnology continue to blossom from their early seeds, the American Chemical Society (ACS) and ACS Publications focus on enabling, reporting on, and accelerating this science and technology revolution by providing exceptional publication venues for cooperation and sharing the latest developments. Nano Letters is now celebrating its 15th birthday and, since inception, has rapidly grown into an outstanding venue for publication of the highest quality work across all areas of nanoscience and nanotechnology, bringing together physics, chemistry, biology, engineering, and medicine, and shaping new scientific disciplines. In late 2007, leveraging the success of Nano Letters, ACS Publications launched ACS Nano in order to complement and to go beyond the communications format—to publish comprehensive manuscripts, editorials, perspectives, reviews, and more. ACS Nano has also grown quickly and publishes an overlapping but different mix of papers spanning science, engineering, medicine, and policy. Today, our two sibling journals offer a full spectrum of the highest quality publication options to the nanoscience and nanotechnology communities and to those interested in our fields.

As editors and scientists, we have often been asked how authors should choose in which of these two journals to publish their work—a nice challenge for our community to have! We believe that this choice should be straightforward. Nano Letters is for shorter, communications-style papers that require immediate publication to communicate an extremely timely result. ACS Nano is for comprehensive papers that deepen and anchor our understanding, as well as for reviews, commentaries, and broader forward-looking articles that lay out the challenges of and opportunities for our fields. We understand that confusion has arisen because we do not set strict length guidelines for either journal. Neither journal wants to be prescriptive to authors, so we will not issue detailed guidelines on what is a communication and what is comprehensive. We expect that authors know this and to have good judgment on these matters. For insight, authors may refer to an ACS Nano editorial about what is expected for a comprehensive article.¹ Henceforth, however, both journals will be more proactive at screening and exchanging manuscripts that fall outside of each journal’s domain. For instance, a 30 page paper with seven figures is unlikely to belong in Nano Letters, and a brief description of a result does not belong in ACS Nano.

The partnership between our two journals is strong, and together, we offer the community a full suite of options for the dissemination of the most exciting and important advances in nanoscience and nanotechnology. We invite all of you to be a part of our community, as we accelerate the impact of nanoscience and nanotechnology over the next decade.

A. Paul Alivisatos, Co-Editor, Nano Letters  
Charles M. Lieber, Co-Editor, Nano Letters  
Heather L. Tierney, Managing Editor, ACS Nano & Nano Letters  
Paul S. Weiss, Editor-in-Chief, ACS Nano

AUTHOR INFORMATION

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

REFERENCES

(1) Schaak, R. E. Comprehensive and Full. ACS Nano 2011, 5, 6767−6768.