

## Editorial

Publication of own research results and rapid access to the results of other scientists is essential for an optimal organization of research efforts around the world. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, research was limited to a relatively low number of countries. Today, scientists from more and more countries get the possibility to contribute to the progress of science. At the same time, technological improvements contribute to obtaining new research results faster than before. As a consequence, the number of scientific reports is continuously increasing. The largest journal specialized in intermetallic compounds, *Journal of Alloys and Compounds*, published 7938 pages in 2007, compared with only 5226 pages ten years earlier, which represents an increase of 50%. An almost unavoidable consequence of this evolution is that the large journals are overloaded with manuscripts waiting to be processed. There is thus a place also for small, dynamic journals, under the condition that colleague researchers have easy access to the articles.

Ivan Franko National University of Lviv has been publishing research reports for many years. *Visnik L'vivskogo Derzhavnogo Universitetu* (*Journal of Lvov State University*) was created in 1962 and is subdivided in several series focusing on different fields, among which *Seriya Khimiya* (*Chemistry Series*) and *Seriya Fizichna* (*Physics Series*). In 1962 literature was not so easily distributed; Soviet literature was seldom available outside the Soviet Union, and vice versa. It is an evidence to everybody that the world of communication has changed radically since those days, and is still changing at a high speed. Internet is the keypoint of these changes, publishing has to be electronic and is naturally international. Spring 2007 the Council of Ivan Franko National University of Lviv decided to make the step and to create a journal that would exist both in printed and electronic form, *CHEMISTRY OF METALS AND ALLOYS*.

The new journal will thus focus on metals, alloys, and intermetallic compounds. Ivan Franko National University of Lviv is proud to host what is officially called the School of Crystal Chemistry of Intermetallic Compounds. This school was initiated by Professors Evgen Cherkashyn, Evgen Gladyshevskii and Petro Krypyakevych and has up to today produced some 3500 scientific papers on phase diagrams, crystal structures and physical properties of intermetallic and related compounds. Former students of Lviv University are continuing their work at various universities around the world.

The scope of the new journal is to publish reports on experimental and theoretical, fundamental and applied research in the fields of synthesis, phase diagrams, crystal structures, analytical methods, physical properties on intermetallic and related compounds.

Over the last decades English has imposed itself as the language of communication among scientists. The main language of *CHEMISTRY OF METALS AND ALLOYS* is thus English. However, it is a duty for Ivan Franko National University of Lviv to facilitate the diffusion of interesting scientific results also for Ukrainian scientists who do not dominate the English language. For this reason the journal accepts also manuscripts in Ukrainian.

The challenge is to publish fast, using the tools of today, but at the same time to offer a frame that guarantees a good scientific quality. In this sense, the role of the members of the editorial board is essential and I am happy and grateful to see that several well-known scientists from both inside and outside Ukraine have accepted to join the venture and to let the authors benefit from their expertise.

There exist no more technical barriers, however, scientists from some countries are strongly limited by economic barriers and even the largest universities cannot afford to pay the subscription fees to scientific journals. One of the wishes of Ivan Franko National University of Lviv was consequently to allow free access to the electronic version of the *CHEMISTRY OF METALS AND ALLOYS*, including cif files and other electronic supplements.

This first issue of *CHEMISTRY OF METALS AND ALLOYS* contains the proceedings of the 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Crystal Chemistry of Intermetallic Compounds, which took place in Lviv in 2005. For the processing of these manuscripts, I would like to express our warm thanks to the guest editors Professor Gabriella Borzone from Genoa, Italy, and Professor Wojciech Suski from Wroclaw, Poland. The second issue will contain the proceedings of the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the same conference, which took place in September 2007. We hope that this will be a good start, however, the journal is not limited to conference proceedings but the aim is to publish ordinary papers in all fields related to intermetallic compounds.

I hope that you will appreciate this new journal and invite you to submit a manuscript. Complementary information, including instructions for authors, is available on our website ([www.chemetal-journal.org](http://www.chemetal-journal.org)).

Roman GLADYSHEVSKII