



# From the Editor

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**“Think IUPAC”**—these words were a call by former IUPAC Secretary General Ted Becker for readers of this magazine to consider in what ways the Union might enhance its contributions to the chemical sciences. In his editorial published in the January 2001 issue, Becker stressed that even scientists with no long-term affiliation with IUPAC may well be interested in tackling a project. Becker's editorial appeared during a transition period from which IUPAC emerged with a fully phased in project system.

Since that time, “Think IUPAC Project” has been a recurring topic of discussion for all constituencies of the Union. Last year, the *Vice President's Critical Assessment* also focused on the topic. Despite all this, it remains

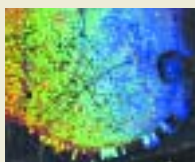


critical that we keep promoting the project system, encouraging scientists from all horizons to come forward with new ideas. If you are a member or fellow of IUPAC, you know that the system is actually quite simple. On the other hand, if you have never participated in an IUPAC project before, a simple description of the system might be very helpful. Let Gus Somsen, current chairman of the Project Committee, take you on a tour of the IUPAC project system (page 2). His experience with and perspective on IUPAC make his piece a “must read” if you are thinking of embarking on an IUPAC project.

If you would like more specific examples of IUPAC projects, visit the IUPAC website where each project is listed with a short description, a progress report, and information on outcomes if applicable. All current and completed projects (about 400 have been initiated since 1999) are kept online for reference. In this issue, you can turn to page 12, and see information about new, current, and complete projects and related initiatives.

Your inquiries are always welcome, and each task group invites your comments. Your participation can start here.

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**Cover:** Jeremy G. Frey <[j.g.frey@soton.ac.uk](mailto:j.g.frey@soton.ac.uk)>, University of Southampton (UK), collected images for a UK EPSRC-funded project for the Public Appreciation of Science. Bright Reflections (From W.S. Brocklesby) is a SNOM (Scanning Near-field Optical Microscopy) image of a nanostructure surface generated by electrodeposition through polymer spheres. This image shows the iridescence of a promising low-technology route to making interesting grainy metals.