

Editorial

David Garner

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Editorial

I am honoured to be the new Editor of *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society A*, the oldest continuously published scientific journal. During its 345 years of existence, *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society A* has published many articles by great scientists describing major scientific advances in a range of fields of study. The quality, relevance and impact of these articles have ensured that, throughout its lifetime, *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society A* has maintained a prominent position in the world's scientific literature.

The nature of scientific publishing has changed a great deal during the past decade and is currently undergoing further changes. These changes have been focused primarily on the mechanisms of 'publication' and information access. What has not changed, and will not change, is the pressure experienced by all publishers of scientific information to maximize the quality of the articles they publish, to ensure that these articles are original, timely and influential and, therefore, of interest to a significant number of fellow scientists and other readers.

The major challenge that I face as an Editor of *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society A* is to ensure the production of 24 issues per annum, that cover the full spectrum of the physical sciences and are consistently of a high quality. In this and other respects, I have been greatly aided by the achievements and forward planning of my predecessor Professor Sir Michael Pepper. As the incoming Editor, I wish to continue the production of dedicated Theme Issues and the involvement of Guest Editors. Also, I will try and ensure that we continue to derive benefit from the Discussion Meetings held in the Royal Society's London and Kavli premises. I wish to continue to develop a community of readers and authors who interact constructively. Therefore, I invite suggestions for ways in which we can enhance the scientific quality and value of *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society A*.

With the assistance, expertise and support of the Editorial Board and the Royal Society staff, I am determined to ensure that *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society A* remains the journal of choice for high-quality contributions that make a significant contribution to the scholarship and philosophy of science. I look forward to my role as an Editor during the next 4 years. One highlight will be to plan the issues that will be published during the 350th anniversary year of *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society* in 2015.

David Garner
*School of Chemistry,
University of Nottingham,
University Park, Nottingham NG7 2RD, UK
E-mail address: dave.garner@nottingham.ac.uk*