EDITORIAL

Welcome to *Materials Research Express*

To cite this article: Meyya Meyyappan 2014 *Mater. Res. Express* **1** 010201

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Express

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Welcome to *Materials Research Express*

On behalf of the Editorial Board and IOP Publishing I am pleased to announce the opening of the inaugural issue of *Materials Research Express* (MRX), a new multidisciplinary journal that will serve all materials scientists. Characterized by a broad subject scope, a fast-track peer-review process and complete article length flexibility for authors, MRX will publish experimental and theoretical research on the design, fabrication, properties, modelling and applications of *all classes* of materials.

Materials research is uniquely multidisciplinary, and increasingly responsible for the fundamental developments in our understanding that have led to technological advances, wide-ranging novel applications and, more and more, commercially viable innovations that impact our lives in unprecedented ways. Our aim is for MRX to reflect this situation by being a single cross-disciplinary journal that brings together the global, and increasingly diverse, materials research community that now extends to physics, engineering, chemistry, biology, medicine and the environmental sciences. To ensure that we achieve this, the editorial direction for the journal is guided by my colleagues on an expanding and geographically diverse Editorial Board comprised of leading experts from across materials science.

As the journal name suggests, a key characteristic of MRX will be to provide authors with very fast publication. The Editorial Board together with a dedicated International Advisory Panel of expert referees are committed to personally directing a streamlined peer-review procedure that guarantees a rapid, but rigorous, editorial decision-making process in line with the journal's article acceptance criteria. The broad scope of MRX (in terms of the wide array of materials covered, and in capturing both fundamental and applied research), means that it will also provide authors and collaborations with a unique channel to publish articles that may be beyond the scope of more specialized journals.

Indeed, taking advantage of the relationship between MRX and IOP Publishing's broader portfolio of established materials research titles, in cases where an article is considered by the editors to be out-of-scope for a particular journal, authors may be given the option to benefit from a streamlined article transfer process in which their work will be re-directed without delay for consideration in MRX. The advantage to authors who take up this option is minimizing the delay in publication, and avoiding repeated submissions to other journals. To ensure that our authors can comply with any specific institutional or funding body requirements for the publication of their work, MRX also offers an open access option to give authors the choice on how their article can be accessed and reused by readers.

I am confident that these key journal characteristics, combined with IOP Publishing's long-standing commitment and reputation as a leading society publisher, will ensure that MRX quickly becomes an established and valuable new addition to the publishing landscape within materials science.

Materials Research Express **1** (2014) 010201
2053-1591/14/010201+02$33.00
doi:10.1088/2053-1591/01/1/015001

As part of the initial launch phase, all content in the journal will be free to read for individual users, universities and academic research institutes throughout 2014. I hope that you enjoy reading our first papers and that you will consider MRX as a rapid publication outlet for your own future research.

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