EDITORIAL

Farewell Editorial from the retiring Editor-in-Chief

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  Chris Wileman
At the end of 2016 I will retire as Editor-in-Chief of Plasma Science and Technology (PSST). In the time I have held this position many things have evolved in the journal.

Due to the visionary leadership of my predecessor Mark Kushner, when I took over the role of Editor-in-Chief in 2013, PPST’s impact factor reached a new all-time high of three. This rise in impact factor triggered an unprecedented growth in submissions and the number of articles we now publish is much increased from what it was when I joined. I am also pleased to report that downloads have grown to new highs. Throughout my time as Editor-in-Chief, I have worked closely with the journal’s Associate Editors to maintain the high standards of quality required to publish in PSST.

I feel two of the most significant actions of the past few years have been in establishing policies on how data sources should be acknowledged and referenced and producing a set of guidelines for publishing and refereeing computer modelling and simulation work. These were only possible thanks to the knowledgeable and thoughtful input and work of Mark Kushner, Leanne Pitchford and Miles Turner.

During my tenure, with the support of and suggestions from the Editorial Board, we have increased the size of our topical review program, focussing more on commissioning reviews on hot topics from leaders in their field.

The way that we publish special issues has also changed. We now publish the articles in these collections as they are accepted for publication. Therefore, there are no delays in publication whilst we wait for all of the articles in a special issue to be accepted.

The roles of Editorial Board Members have been reviewed along with their length of appointment in order to promote a continuous renewal of the Editorial Board membership and to reflect emerging research areas.

Looking to the future, as of January 2017 PSST will move to an online only publication and will increase the frequency of publication to 12 issues a year. This move reflects both the declining demand for print issues and a response to the growth in the number of papers published in PSST.

We’ve come a long way from the first issue of PSST published in May 1992. The field continues to grow and move into new cross-disciplinary areas and PSST’s scope reflects these changes, including welcoming work reporting the measurements or calculations of the fundamental data required in our field. PSST has been supported by the low temperature plasma community and has flourished to become the top ranked journal in the field.

I would like to thank our Editorial Board Members who have offered their advice, ideas and support and in particular the team of Associate Editors for their tireless work on peer reviewing articles. I want to single out our excellent PSST team at IOP Publishing, Alice, Dean, Yasmin and Eden for their commitment to PSST. It has also been a real pleasure for me to work with them. Last but not least I would like to recognise our scientific community, authors, referees and readers for embracing and supporting PSST.

I am proud to have been able to contribute to the journal over the past three years and I am very pleased to announce that Professor Uwe Czarnetzki will be taking over as the new Editor-in-Chief. I am certain that he will do an excellent job in guiding the journal through the next stage of it’s development and I wish him all the best.