

EDITORIAL

Editorial: 2012 – an exciting year for *Annalen der Physik*

Dear Reader,

This year marked nothing less than a '*petit voyage de découverte*' for our journal as it embarked on a new route towards a more modern physics publication.

The most obvious sign is the new layout but the more fundamental change was the internal restructuring, including a new editorial board and additional content [1]. We welcomed new advisory board members to support our in-house editorial team and bring new impetus to our journal. Many of the board members support the new *Annalen der Physik* in the form of their own contributions or by successfully inviting colleagues to publish in our journal. Furthermore they stimulate discussions and help to organize special issues on topics that previously had not featured prominently on the agenda of *Annalen der Physik* (see below). This, and the increased awareness in the physics community that *Annalen der Physik* is an attractive journal to publish in, makes us look optimistically at the future. But what exactly do we have to offer?

We introduced a new article type, namely the letter article that did not exist prior to 2012 in *Annalen der Physik*, e.g. [2,3]. With some extra editorial effort and the support of the advisory board, more invited review articles have been published. At the same time, strict peer-review standards are being enforced more vigorously. The pre-screening of manuscripts prior to the peer-review which was already common practice before 2012, has become

even more stringent with an increased rejection rate, from 56% in 2010 (the year we introduced the online submission system) to around 75% in 2012. Thus we made every effort to realize our stated goal of 2011 [3b]: "[To] offer you more content, a better service and a new look and feel."

Our new section *Physics Forum* has been well received by our readers. It mainly encompasses *Then & Now* and *Expert Opinion* articles, but occasionally also includes comments as well as book reviews – all as online open content. The historical *Then & Now* articles edited by Dieter Hoffmann (Berlin) and Christian Joas (Munich) build a connection between major past achievements and our current understanding of physics. The *Expert Opinions* are co-published along with selected recent papers and provide an expert view on the respective subjects, e.g. [4,5].

Already in 2005, celebrating the Albert Einstein *annus mirabilis*, the Einstein Lectures were introduced [6] with fine contributions from Nobel laureates like Theodor Hänsch, Roy Glauber and Peter Grünberg. This year we continued this series of outstanding contributions with works from Dieter Vollhardt (*Dynamical mean-field theory for correlated electrons* [7]) and Milo M. Lin and Ahmed H. Zewail (*Protein folding – simplicity in complexity* [8]), both are online open.

With the help of our advisors and guest editors we were able to identify three hot topics that were finally materialized in special issues

in 2012, one of which was dedicated to our former editor-in-chief Ulrich Eckern's 60 birthday: *Quantum Dynamics of Nano-Structured Systems* by Gerd Schön, Cosima Schuster and Peter Schwab [9].

Other special issues this year are *Dark Matter*, edited by Matthias Bartelmann and Volker Springel [10], and *Plasmonic Sensors*, organized by Mikael Käll, Stefan A. Maier and Liberato Manna. [11].

And there is more to come. 2013 will start with a double issue on *Ultrafast Phenomena at the Nanoscale*, organized by Peter Hommelhoff, Matthias Kling and Mark Stockman. Later during the year the focus will be set on two further topics, namely *Precision Experiments and Fundamental Physics at Low Energies*, edited by Klaus Blaum, Holger Müller and Nathal Severijns, and *Quantum Simulation* organized by Rainer Blatt, Immanuel Bloch, Ignacio Cirac and Peter Zoller. This, together with some first class review articles, will make 2013 an exciting year for *Annalen der Physik*. With an intentionally limited page budget our major focus is clearly set on high quality, urgency and relevance to the community. I invite you to be part of the new *Annalen der Physik*. Rely on our fast and unbiased services. Only with your support and your top quality submissions can the journal grow and gain further impact. We welcome your submissions!

With kind regards

Guido W. Fuchs
Editor-in-Chief

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