Editorial

Welcome to *Physchem*: Status and Prospects

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We begin with passing on our very best wishes to the community for a healthy and prosperous 2022. We have prepared this short Editorial for the new year, to update our readers and authors with some key metrics from our first full year in operation.

The launch of *PhysChem* has created a journal dedicated specifically to the field of physical chemistry within the MDPI portfolio of natural-science-oriented journals. The field of physical chemistry has been gaining in importance; indeed, being an intrinsically multidisciplinary area focused, in particular, on studies of how matter behaves on a molecular and atomic level, it is a field of primary importance for the development of many novel technologies, from fuel cells to batteries to catalytic systems. A number of MDPI journals focused on their applications (including *Nanomaterials*, *Materials*, and *Molecules*) have achieved significant impact (also reflected in their Impact Factor). With a scope including the nexus of underlying physics, chemistry, and computational mathematics as well as data-driven approaches including machine learning and artificial intelligence applied to problems of physical chemistry, *PhysChem* is well positioned to attract innovative papers and enjoy a sustained rise in impact in the near future.

PhysChem did well in its inception year, despite the COVID-19 pandemic and the other challenges faced when starting a new journal. We are proud and grateful to the authors, reviewers, Editorial Board, advisors, and many others who significantly contributed to this journal's successful launch. We extend a warm welcome to Cheeria Liang, our new Managing Editor, to whom I am very thankful. Several additional new Board Members have been enrolled as part of our Editorial Board. We warmly welcome Dr. Charlotte Vogt of Israel Institute of Technology and Prof. Gianfranco Risuleo of Sapienza University of Rome, and anticipate their support in shaping the future of *PhysChem* in the coming years.

In 2021, we published 21 articles, and we were listed in the DOAJ and J-Gate databases. The key sections of *PhysChem* are Catalysis, Electrochemistry, Physical Organic Chemistry, Nanoscience, Kinetics and Thermodynamics, and Surface Science. Figure 1 shows the frequency of keywords in the published papers and their interconnection. At *PhysChem*, we are deeply grateful for all contributions. With more exciting challenges and changes in the coming months, we begin the new year welcoming your excellent and exciting contributions in the key areas of Physical Chemistry and Chemical Physics.

The year 2022 started with the advertisement of several new Special Issues, for which we welcome your contributions. This is also the year we will launch the *PhysChem* PhD award for the best thesis published in the last 12 months, for which we welcome nominations and applications.

We would like to finish this Editorial by wishing you all the health in the world. We are hopeful for the end of the pandemic as we currently know it, and that we will return to some normality with in-person events and warm interactions, which we all miss and have become to value even more.

Citation: Sá, J.; Manzhos, S.; Barone, V. Welcome to *Physchem*: Status and Prospects. *Physchem* **2022**, *2*, 16–17. <https://doi.org/10.3390/physchem2010002>

Received: 23 January 2022

Accepted: 22 February 2022

Published: 27 February 2022

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Figure 1. Incidence rate of keywords in *PhysChem* articles in the categories of Physical Chemistry and Chemical Physics published in 2018–2021.

Author Contributions: The authors contributed equally to the drafting of the manuscript. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

Funding: This research received no external funding.

Institutional Review Board Statement: Not applicable.

Informed Consent Statement: Not applicable.

Data Availability Statement: Not applicable.

Conflicts of Interest: There are not conflict of interest.