



# Creative and relevant materials innovation

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Figure 1. Materials innovation advance the development of human society.

The *Innovation Materials* is a Journal with the highest standards. Most importantly, it is largely managed by active researchers, and it is fully open access. The combination of high quality, strict focus on real innovative papers, and a large readership of course sets the base for impact and visibility, the central point for authors to consider a publication in *The Innovation Materials*.

What do we expect to do and change as the editors of this endeavour? Working and publishing on innovative materials is a very timely activity: the world is experiencing a “triple change” (climate change, energy change, raw material change), and the way forward throughout the resulting pressure for solutions will most certainly rely on materials innovation (Figure 1). Obvious examples of that are (1) the storage of fluctuating green electricity in more efficient and less costly devices; (2) the management of global CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes in a fully circular fashion and an integrative engineering approach; (3) the redesign of current devices or technical products to minimize the use of rare elements or to replace completely the current technologies with omnipresent alternative materials and a lot of know-how. This list could be perpetuated and is not exclusive. It just illustrates the current necessities of our field to literally rethink every piece and process.

We can also analyze the potential contributions we expect to see in *The Innovation Materials* from a more topic-oriented perspective. We have seen, especially in the last years, true progress in broad areas, for instance, light and high-strength materials for construction, super elastic and highly dissipative materials for mechanical applications, self-healing materials to extend the lifetime and improve reliability, new circular polymers including substitutes for plastic; metamaterials to step into new property space, liquid metal technology and flexible electronics, or even just a continuation of old dreams, such as high-temperature superconductivity.

Every experienced reader will understand the buzzing excitement behind each of these topics, and it is the creativity combined with the potential

impact which makes materials science so pleasing and rewarding. There is however also an editorial dimension on how we should work, not only on what we work, and this is very close to the virtues of every professional person. (1) Truthfulness and fairness to your competitors. Polished data and missing citations do not bring luck but destroy trust. Readers should be able to trust all your articles. (2) Braveness. Think up to your limits. Challenge classical stereotypes, especially those of your own work. (3) Understanding. Be aware of the difference in personalities but also disciplines. Use language to create agreement, not to increase differences. (4) Politeness. Stay with the facts in your paper and do not turn data against others. (5) Truth. Be the scientist you are inside. Write with your inner knowledge. Keep your work clean and pure. (6) Awareness of honor. You represent yourself, but also your family, your school, and your employer. Understand the responsibility beyond this brings. (7) Loyalty. Respect your teachers or the elder. Consider the contributions of your colleagues. As strange as it sounds, already those little, rather usual rules make a better article which is a bigger pleasure to read and therefore will find a higher impact.

There is a meta-level of those rules, which gives implications for the practical work. Biomimetic approaches for instance are a combination of truth and loyalty, and to be inspired by nature by the inner awareness of its perfection is a quick path to performing materials. Interdisciplinarity, as a second, while keeping the strict rules of your own discipline, is a combination of understanding, braveness, and truth, at least. If well done, it is a successful path to highly valuable manuscripts.

There is more to say, but there is a text limit, and of course, we hope to write further editorials. In this sense, we wish all the editorial staff, managers, board members but also authors a lucky first issue of *The Innovation Materials*. Let us keep and improve the quality.

## DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The authors declare no competing interests.