



Editorial Note

Membrane Research in a Global Context Requires Collaboration, not Competition

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Science should be a global action, more than any other activity. Science has a noble purpose: to increase knowledge, in our case, about membrane science and technology. This should be to the benefit of everyone, not for a narrow selection. It should not matter where you come from. Brains are welcome! However, globalization in membrane science has its limits. First of all, there are commercial interests. These reduce the general interest as they are intended to serve only few people. For this reason, publications are important, since they make discoveries available for everyone. Publishing more is helpful in that respect. A second reason for the limitations of science is in access to knowledge. Not everyone has the immense privilege of being able to access papers at any point, without restrictions. This is always due to external circumstances that should be far from science: conflicts, instabilities, poverty, and terrorism.

Millions of brilliant minds - potential membranologists - are kept away from scientific information. You may be proud of your most recent paper, but don't forget to be thankful that you have been given the chance to study, to do experiments, and to report them. Many people can only dream of doing that, because they had no opportunities to go to a university, or if they had, to do anything with their knowledge. An unrestricted access to papers is a start - although much more can and should be done to give everyone the same chances. Globalization is making progress, but let's not forget that there is still a lot of work on the shelf.

This issue of Journal of Membrane Science and Research hopes to contribute to global knowledge. It has no restrictions on reading or writing, except one: quality of papers prevails. Today we have somewhat forgotten the noble purpose of science. Many researchers are writing because their career requires doing so. That is why they claim novelty with every detail that is different than already published. Researchers behave like competitors, having a benefit when they are the first or biggest in the market. We may have to look at novelty in a different way: does it inspire other researchers? Does it enhance collaboration rather than competition? Such positive attitude of providing help - and as said, particularly to our underprivileged colleagues - would make (membrane) science again a joyful experience.

We are lucky to have a more-than-average number of colleagues with a positive mind in membrane science and technology, but universities and research institutes around the globe have a rather different agenda. This

journal will be a free zone, with thanks to Editor-in-Chief Ali Kargari. Keep this in mind when reading the articles, and enjoy them even more.