As we brace the new year of 2020, I would like to thank our contributors for their trust to publish and their research findings in the Journal of the Chinese Chemical Society (JCCS) as a platform for dissemination. I also would like to thank the readers for looking up research information from this journal. With open access journals flourishing nowadays, the JCCS still gains the trust of many researchers as one important resource for their daily references.

Looking back the year 2019, I am glad to say that JCCS is doing very well. The total full-text downloads (FTDs) increased by 18%. Nearly 600 manuscripts, or 16.6% more than last year, were submitted by authors from 42 countries around the world. We put out 11 regular issues plus 1 special topical issue, with a total of 196 papers published, which is an increase of 17% from last year. A breakdown of published articles by subject area gives: Organic Chemistry (58), Inorganic Chemistry (52), Physical Chemistry (32), Analytical Chemistry (23), Materials Chemistry (20), and Biochemistry (7). From them, four papers were selected by the Editorial Board as the best papers of the year and are highlighted on the inside back cover of this issue. Although the submissions are mainly from Asia region (49%), those from other areas are increasing year by year. The quality of peer reviews of this journal have also improved substantially. More reviewers are invited to examine each paper. The reviewers are chosen from 16 countries, including China, United States, India, Japan, besides Taiwan. The JCCS is moving towards a more regionally balanced reviewer pool. Most notably, the JCCS achieved a solid 27% increase in its impact factor, from 0.862 for 2017 to 1.188 for 2018. We will keep working hard to improve the scientific quality and visibility of the journal and better serve the chemistry community. In 2020, a special issue will be published to honor Dr. Chien-Hong Cheng, Professor of Chemistry at the National Tsing Hua University (Taiwan), also a former President of the Chemical Society located in Taipei, in the occasion of his retirement at the age of 70. Dr. Cheng is an internationally known organometallic chemist who has served the Society well during his career.

The year 2019 still witnessed the effects of abnormal weather and global warming in many parts of the world. While politicians are rather divided in how to deal with the situation, there is no doubt chemistry can play a crucial role in many of the technical solutions, such as alternative energy sources and new materials, carbon dioxide conversion/reduction. On the other front, improving the wellbeing of human kind by developing various drug to cure all kinds of diseases has always been a major thrust of scientists. Chemistry is also the center of these endeavors. While the JCCS publishes original papers in every discipline of chemistry, it will also keep up with the society’s concerns and serve as a platform to disseminate related research outcomes.

In Chinese astrology, 2020 is the year of Rat, which is the first of all the 12 zodiac animals. It is a year of new beginnings and opportunities. We at the JCCS editorial team thanks all of you who have been supporting the journal over the past year: our readers, our authors, and our referees and board members. On behalf of the team, I wish all of you a fruitful new year ahead.