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- Information Services and Computing
- · Software Diagnostics and Conformance Testing
- Statistical Engineering

¹At Boulder, CO 80303. ²Some elements at Boulder, CO.

Journal of Research of the National Institute of Standards and Technology

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Available online http://www.nist.gov/jres **Cover:** A schematic diagram of the fluorescence intensity quantitation cycle. The bottom panel shows the response of a flow cytometer to a set of five calibration microspheres each with a different amount of immobilized fluorescein. The five peaks provide a calibration line which can be used to assign a "fluorescence intensity" to flow cytometer signals from a population of biological cells, shown in the panel on the right. In analogous fashion, a set of "standard dots" will be used to calibrate the "fluorescence intensity" from a set of dots in a DNA microarray, top panel. The diagram on the left shows the structure of fluorescein, a common fluorochrome used in biological assays. The Raman spectrum of fluorescein, left panel, is one of several measurements that can be performed to understand the behavior of the fluorochrome on materials such as standard microspheres. Cover illustration by C. Carey.

The Journal of Research of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the flagship periodic publication of the national metrology institute of the United States, features advances in metrology and related fields of physical science, engineering, applied mathematics, statistics, and information technology that reflect the scientific and technical programs of the Institute. The Journal publishes papers on instrumentation for making accurate measurements, mathematical models of physical phenomena, including computational models, critical data, calibration techniques, well-characterized reference materials, and quality assurance programs that report the results of current NIST work in these areas. Occasionally, a Special Issue of the Journal is devoted to papers on a single topic. Also appearing on occasion are review articles and reports on conferences and workshops sponsored in whole or in part by NIST.

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Note to Readers

Dear Reader,

I am honored to succeed Barry N. Taylor as Chief Editor of the *Journal of Research of the National Institute of Standards and Technology*. Barry has served the *Journal* and NIST with distinction both through his encouragement of NIST authors to submit accounts of their excellent work and through the high standards he applied to the daily job of reviewing and improving the manuscripts submitted. Although it has undergone several name changes, the *Journal* has been in continuous existence since 1904, a few years less than NIST itself. Thanks to Barry and the Board of Editors, I am taking on the job of Chief Editor during an active time in the *Journal's* history. The excellent collection of fundamental articles in the Centennial Issue, January-February of this year, and the numerous fine manuscripts in the pipeline for current and upcoming issues indicate that the *Journal* is thriving as the principal publication for archival articles on key NIST measurement results, methods, instruments, and modeling in science, engineering, and information technology. I will foster important contributions as Barry did and will continue to publicize the whole breadth of activities of our unique institution in the News Briefs.

Theodore Vorburger Chief Editor

Message From Past Chief Editor

Dear Reader,

With this issue (Volume 106, No. 2, March-April 2001), Theodore Vorburger succeeds me as Chief Editor of the *Journal of Research of the National Institute of Standards and Technology*. It has been my pleasure to serve as Chief Editor of the *Journal*, the flagship periodic publication of the national metrology institute of the United States, for a little over 12 years. (My first issue was Volume 94, No. 1, January–February, 1989.) During this time, I, together with the other members of the Board of Editors of the *Journal*, attempted to bring to the *Journal's* readers outstanding papers that reflected the diverse scientific and technical programs of NIST, as well as succinct descriptions via the News Briefs of the most exciting current work of the NIST staff. I am pleased to be able to assure you that Ted plans to continue to the utmost of his outstanding abilities this long tradition of the *Journal* and its predecessors and, as a result, that you will continue to find each issue worthy of your attention.

Barry N. Taylor

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