

Editorial

N Sathyamurthy, Chief Editor

The tradition of featuring the life and works of a well-known scientist who is no longer around and the reproduction of a classic article written by him/her is unique to *Resonance*. As a reader, I used to find it very valuable. It is always worthwhile to read the original article written by a famous scientist and to look at it with a hindsight. I enjoyed writing about Michael Polanyi before I became the Chief Editor. In this issue at hand, Biman Bagchi has written about Lars Onsager

At the risk of repeating what has been written about Onsager, I want to point out that Onsager was unique in many ways. Legend has it that when Mrs Onsager received the news about the Nobel Prize to Onsager, she wanted to know in which subject the Prize was being given. Onsager was a chemist as well as a physicist. Actually, he was trained as a chemical engineer!

At the root of physics and chemistry lies the principle of microscopic reversibility – the theory proposed by Lars Onsager. While chemists often use it in the form of detailed balance and for systems in thermal equilibrium, the basic principle applies to non-equilibrium situations as well. Living systems are classic examples of systems NOT in equilibrium.

The issue carries the reproduction of the original article titled ‘Reciprocal Relations in Irreversible Processes I’ by Lars Onsager in the Classics section. The article which was originally published in *Physical Review*, Vol.37, has been reproduced here with permission from the American Physical Society.

To remedy the situation of *Resonance* not publishing enough on biology, there has been a conscious effort to increase the biology content in the journal. We are grateful to Raghavendra Gadagkar for offering to contribute a series of articles in biology. Part II of this series appears in the current issue, and we look forward to



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presenting the successive parts.

The history of quantum mechanics has been narrated many times. And yet, one cannot be tired of hearing it. One of the classic books on the subject was written by F Hund, an active participant in the development of quantum mechanics, sitting in Göttingen, Germany. I had enjoyed reading about Bohr and Dirac from the earlier writings of N Mukunda in *Resonance*. Now, we have the pleasure of bringing to the audience of *Resonance* an article on the early history of quantum mechanics by N Mukunda and co-authors.

There have been suggestions to *Resonance* to publish crossword puzzles. It is not easy to make them for each issue. While the last issue carried a crossword on venomous animals, the present issue carries one on the basic unit of life – cell.

The issue also carries (Re)setting Ties Between Scientists and Society – reflections by Ramray Bhat exploring the various facets that impact social recognition of the importance of science.

We have been receiving several articles from our colleagues in India and elsewhere for *Resonance*. We are grateful to them all. We need more articles, particularly in chemistry and engineering. We request all the colleagues to come forward and write for *Resonance*. It is not easy, but it is worth it; it is an investment for the younger generation. If one article can attract one young mind to science, it is worth writing it.

Last but not the least, we are glad to announce the launch of our new online manuscript submission and review platform. The live setup of the tool – Revview Central – is now available at <https://ias.revviewcentral.com>. Aspiring authors are requested to use the link to submit their manuscripts.

