PREFACE

Creativity, Sustainability, and Education Driving the Future of Protein and Peptide Research

As *Protein and Peptide Letters* commences its 2026 volume, we celebrate a field that continues to expand its frontiers with imagination, rigor, and responsibility. Peptides and proteins are no longer confined to traditional boundaries; they now inspire progress in medicine, materials science, environmental technologies, and even cosmetic innovation.

The rise of peptide-based cosmetics exemplifies this creative expansion. Bioactive sequences designed to promote skin repair, protection, and rejuvenation are bringing molecular science into daily life. This exciting area demonstrates how the principles of chemical biology and peptide engineering can be translated into sustainable, accessible solutions for human wellbeing.

Equally significant is the growing emphasis on green and sustainable peptide synthesis. From enzymatic catalysis and solvent-free coupling to flow-assisted reactions, the field is advancing toward eco-friendly and efficient methodologies. These practices are reshaping peptide chemistry into a model of environmental stewardship and innovation.

Education remains at the heart of this transformation. The continued vitality of our discipline depends on training young scientists to think across traditional boundaries, to understand not only synthesis and structure, but also sustainability, ethics, and application. The discipline of organic chemistry holds the responsibility of educating these future researchers in peptide chemistry, equipping them with the skills, judgment, and creativity to lead in both fundamental and applied peptide science. Integrating green chemistry principles and digital tools into education will empower the next generation to innovate with both imagination and responsibility.

In 2026, *Protein and Peptide Letters* remains steadfast in its mission, *i.e.,* to promote rapid dissemination of discoveries, support early-career researchers, and encourage interdisciplinary collaboration. We particularly welcome contributions that unite scientific innovation with sustainable practice and educational vision, reinforcing our belief that progress is most substantial when shared.

Let 2026 be a year of creativity and commitment, where peptides and proteins continue to connect discovery, education, and responsibility, inspiring science that not only advances knowledge but also nurtures the world around us.

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