

EDITORIAL

The Editorial Board of *Croatica Chemica Acta* has decided to devote this issue of the journal to the current status of analytical chemistry in Croatia. Analytical chemistry has a long history in this country. The first chemical laboratory on college level in Croatia was set up at the Royal Agricultural and Forestry College of Križevci in 1860. The laboratory was mostly used for analytical purposes, that is, for analyzing bread, milk, wines, waters, soil, fodder, fertilizers, *etc.* Teaching modern chemistry started at the University of Zagreb in 1875. Analytical chemistry was taught among the introductory subjects. Initial student laboratory training also involved analytical chemistry.

With time, the importance of analytical chemistry increased here and elsewhere, as one can see from the past and current chemical literature. Many scientific disciplines need and apply analytical chemical methods. Analytical problems grow out of economic and social problems, posed by the world's ceaseless progress and changes. Simultaneously, decisions in economical and social fields, and even in politics, are dependent on information obtainable from analytical chemistry. Therefore, this branch of chemistry should have a very promising future in every country.

Today, the science of chemistry has at its disposal an impressive array of powerful and inventive tools for obtaining qualitative and quantitative information about a variety of types of analytes in various complex samples. New methods of chemical analysis are being developed almost on a daily basis. The aims and trends are to obtain more and better chemical information on the matter, using less and less material, time and human resources and causing minimum risk of chemicals for people and environment.

The financial support for this rather expensive research is significantly greater in the USA, Canada, Japan and many European countries than in Croatia. Despite this fact, Croatian authors have succeeded in showing in this issue of our journal that they follow trends of the modern analytical chemistry in many fields.

Contributions are certainly missing from several parts of the current analytical chemistry. However, in this status report, we have tried to take all relevant contributions into consideration and we apologize if we have overlooked some important research work. In some cases, we were unfortu-

nately not successful in motivating the authors to participate in this project. Contributions accepted for publication are arranged according to the analytical techniques employed. The issue is focused on spectroscopic, chromatographic and electrochemical analytical methods.

We should like to thank the authors for their contributions and we greatly appreciate the reviewers' assistance in making prompt and helpful comments on the submitted manuscripts.

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