AKADÉMIAI KIADÓ

Editorial

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EDITORIAL

We, the Editors and the Editorial Board Members of *Acta Chromatographica*, take an immense honour and great pleasure in conveying our best wishes to Professor Mieczysław (Mietek) Sajewicz, Co-Editor-in-Chief of our journal on the occasion of his 70th birthday. His contribution to establishing an international chromatography journal just in the Institute of Chemistry, University of Silesia, Katowice, Poland, at a difficult moment soon after the 1989 political setup transformation in our country is hardly possible to overestimate. It was only Mietek's passion for and his firm dedication to the separation sciences in combination with his enormous entrepreneurial skills that helped him put such a seemingly odd idea into a decently functioning practice, which resulted in the first volume of the journal released in 1992, and in all volumes which have followed thereafter, over the past almost thirty years. If today we tried to remind the adventures of all kinds at an initial stage of establishing our journal, it would sound too comical or too surrealistic to be cited, and yet an only person able to cope with multiple obstacles of that chaotic period of time has inevitably and always been Mietek. Although right from the beginning *Acta Chromatographica* was spurred by an ambition to become an international communication platform in the field of separation sciences, its initial 'supply network' embraced mostly the research laboratories of Polish academia. However, in the span of almost thirty years that followed, our journal has been gradually yet consequently rising, always under Mietek's watchful supervision, to eventually gather contributors and readers literally from around the globe.

Mietek's obsession with separation sciences materialized in the form of yet another and also very precious contribution to the chromatographic community, and namely as a series of annual chromatography symposia held in a charming mountain resort of Szczyrk in South Poland, organized by the Institute of Chemistry, University of Silesia. Once again, Mietek's vision and entrepreneurial spirit have proved pivotal for the success of this initiative, which commenced in the 'prehistoric' year 1976 and – spanning epochs and generations – has been uninterruptedly continued until now. Over the years, these symposia have attracted many participants from home and abroad, and in many chromatography centres across Europe they are known as the 'eternal' Szczyrk meetings. For these two initiatives, which have provided a convenient space for the development of separation sciences, Mietek deserves our unconditional and very loud thank you.

Professor Mieczysław Sajewicz was born on March 23rd, 1951 in Sosnowiec, Poland. He studied chemistry at the University of Silesia in Katowice, from which he obtained his MSc (1978) and PhD (1989) degrees in analytical chemistry, with both theses focusing on applications of gas chromatography to studying factors governing separation quality (e.g., isomerism of analytes, polarity of stationary phases, and working parameters of the gas

chromatographic system as a whole). In 2013, he earned a DSc degree in pharmacy from Collegium Medicum, Jagiellonian University, Kraków, Poland. His DSc dissertation focused on spontaneous nonlinear processes (oscillatory chiral conversion and oscillatory condensation) running in parallel in aqueous and nonaqueous solutions of profen drugs and the other low-molecular-weight chiral carboxylic acids (derived from acetic, propionic, and butyric acid). The spectrum of his scientific interests and research competences is really broad and it ranges from analytical to physical chemistry, and more specifically, from phytochemical, food and forensic analysis to oscillatory reactions in a unique manner traced not with traditional electrochemical tools, but for the first time exploring the applicability of liquid chromatography to such a challenging experimental task. An abundant publication output of Professor Mieczysław Sajewicz embraces over 160 scientific papers, many of them published in the renowned chromatography and chemistry journals, like *J. Chromatogr. A*, *J. Chromatogr. Sci.*, *Plos One*, *Molecules*, *Israel J. Chem.*, *J. Phys. Chem. A*, *RSC Adv.*, and *Front. Chem.* He also co-authored two book chapters (Chapter 2 in *Preparative Layer Chromatography*, 2006; Chapter 9 in *Thin Layer Chromatography in Chiral Separations and Analysis*, 2007), and co-edited two monographs in the Chromatographic Science Series of the CRC Press/Taylor and Francis Group (*Planar Chromatography – Mass Spectrometry*, 2015; *Chromatographic Techniques in the Forensic Analysis of Designer Drugs*, 2018). It is probably needless to add that Professor Mieczysław Sajewicz is a seasoned academic teacher to many generations of the chemistry students who has educated a legion of the well

trained chromatographers who got a strong foothold on the analytical laboratories market at home and abroad, supervised ca. 200 MSc theses, co-supervised 3 and supervised 5 finalized PhD theses, and currently supervises several more not yet finalized doctorates.

Personal friends of Mietek know him not only as an accomplished scientist, experienced editor and a dedicated academic teacher, but also as a great fan of present-day Western music, who knows everything about rock, blues, zydeco, country and many other musical styles and music performers (from those on top of popularity lists to the others hardly known to the general public), and who – whenever possible – avidly attends musical concerts. In his office, the Internet radio is often switched on, softly playing the tunes of B.B. King, Muddy Waters, Eric Clapton, Leonard Cohen and others. Besides, Mietek is an owner of two pianos and uses them to play his wonderful, readily improvised pieces of blues. He can play like that for hours and hours, because – following his own words – a true bluesman stops playing only when he faints and falls off the piano stool. Above all, Mietek is a dedicated and loving family man with two sons, four grandsons and one baby granddaughter.

Dear Mietek, may all the years ahead bring you good health and joy, and successful perpetuation of all your activities and passions. Wishing you many happy returns,

Teresa Kowalska,

Co-Editor-in-Chief

Danica Agbaba, Ivana Stanimirova-Daszykowska, and
Monika Waksmundzka-Hajnos,

Editors

Editorial Board