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Letter from the Editor

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Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers,

I can remember a time when academic Analytical Chemistry was dominated by electrochemistry both steady state voltammetry and dynamic methods. Since those days, many changes have occurred in the field both in diversity of techniques and, perhaps more importantly, the complexity of the matter needed to be detected and quantitated. It is entertaining to speculate on what cutting-edge aspect of today will be routine three decades hence. Four decades ago, major chemistry departments advertised the availability of a vapor phase fractometer [gas chromatograph] available for general use!

What are the major directions of chemical measurement science for the next few decades? The Journal would certainly consider articles from authors willing to try to answer even parts of that question. Even with a good crystal ball the chances are small that any of us would “hit the nail on the head” but such insights inspire others to think. The real challenge is described as “thinking outside the box.” Will measurement techniques with quantitative outcome be needed for ever larger molecules or even organisms? Probably. Would anyone have predicted the impact of simple kits for DNA amplification thirty years ago and the routine use of DNA for identification by law enforcement and the military? Will the boundary between molecular chemistry and chemical biology become even more diffuse? Probably.

Looking at the manuscripts being submitted to this Journal, as the Editor I can see opportunities to foster cross disciplinary inspiration. The readers have already seen the beginnings of ionic fluid applications in measurement. I would hope to soon have articles on nano-scale materials for reagent delivery, for selective separation, for both steady-state and dynamic electrochemistry.

Prof. C. H. Lochmüller
Editor-in-Chief

