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Letter from the Editor

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

This is the last issue of the '97 year. It is time again to thank all the authors, members of the Editorial Board and, most importantly, the readership for the support the Journal has received in the form of constructive criticism, stimulating ideas and important papers. As most Editors learn one can have innovative ideas and plans for new directions. Without authoritative authors and interested readers, any Journal faces the classic: "What would you do if you offered the most wonderful opportunities but no one noticed or accepted?" So, thanks again!

Times are changing and so are structures and traditions. Examples? The United States Pharmacopeial Convention has just completed a self study as to how best meet the challenges of the future and how to best direct its efforts. Some of the impetus is from the clear indications that biotechnology will change the very nature of some prescription drugs. For example, drugs will be prescribed to solve the particular disease problem of a single patient tailored for a specific response from that patient's immune system. Then there are the polymer carriers, the polymer carriers that will release the drug substance at a controlled rate only at the site of disease, and the polymer carriers whose function is to reduce packaging and storage stability concerns. Coupled with all of these quantitative concerns and a new emphasis on 'standards', are concerns that the USP be revised and improved by an informed, diverse and nationally representative body.

Are there challenges and dangers in change especially *mutans gratia mutandis*? I ask you because I think topical articles on such challenges to the view of the measurement community –academic, industrial and governmental – are appropriate for this Journal to consider. Just like "Green Chemistry" offers the challenges I referred to last time, changes in time-proven, standards establishment protocols can be found everywhere today. Are the changes undertaken by groups aware of the origins of inertia to change? That the reason one cannot solve all measurement problems with the new-old technique of Capillary-Zone Electrophoresis – is that you cannot and need not? That, especially in the case of compendial methods, one must be concerned with equipment availability in all possible manufacturers' laboratories and the cost of inter and intra laboratory validation? Are they? If you think so, write a paper describing the needs. If you do not, share those thoughts.

In this issue we offer a variety of review types for your reading. The Journal will continue to resist long articles that are of the format "A did this. B did that. C has once-again restudied x thoroughly and reached the same conclusion once more..." Nevertheless, there is a need for specifically focused articles how a given method is applied in a particular area of measurement challenges. We may call them "Focus Articles" in fact.

Suggestions or comments can be sent to the Editor from the WWW site <http://www.crcpress.com/jour/crac/crac.htm>.



Prof. C. H. Lochmüller
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