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Publisher *Taylor & Francis*

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Critical Reviews in Analytical Chemistry

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:
<http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~content=t713400837>

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Online publication date: 10 August 2010

To cite this Article (2004) 'LETTER FROM THE EDITOR', Critical Reviews in Analytical Chemistry, 34: 1, ii

To link to this Article: DOI: 10.1080/713988280

URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/713988280>

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Readers:

Another year and a first issue! This is the first issue to be completely handled by the journals division of Taylor & Francis after the acquisition of CRC Press, LLC in 2003. Everything else you have come to expect and the goals of *Critical Reviews in Analytical Chemistry* remain the same.

These are challenging times for the chemical and biological measurement sciences. The demands for rapid, low false-negative and low false-positive methods for detection of chemical toxins and pathogenic bacteria are at an all-time high. The threat of battlefield and ordinary commerce exposure to nerve agents, explosives, bio-terror agents must be met by selective, reliable, adequate dynamic range, self-calibrating “gadgets” that are field usable. If one finds 250 buried mortar shells that are liquid-filled, the choice of remediation approach demands information on exactly what that liquid is—right? The determination of what it likely is must be possible for field engineers in an environment that is far from research laboratory space in conditions and near-by help. The *Journal* would be delighted to receive articles related to this challenging topic.

What we are seeking is a thematic issue on the chemical challenges of counter-terrorism. Repeating what has been said before, *Critical Reviews in Analytical Chemistry* has had thematic issues in the past and invites the suggestion of other themes including the offer to help gather, seek review and, thus, create an issue of the *Journal*. An issue on the use of common chemometric tools in the actual solution of an analytical problem is such a desirable topic. Self-calibration as a system challenge is a growing area of measurement science. Feel free to contact any member of the Editorial Board or the Editor-in-Chief with suggestions or to volunteer as a coordinator. The topic need not be self-calibration alone, of course. On a more philosophical side, if any of the readers would like to try, the *Journal* will consider position papers on what the future in chemical measurement science will see and explore. Yes, I agree that in writing any such paper, an author risks laughter now and in the future, but the opportunity to challenge the community to think is in itself a reward. Manuscripts are best sent as Word files attached to e-mail directly to the Editor-in-Chief charles.lochmullerl@duke.edu with figures and tables not embedded but separate. Guides for authors and copyright release forms can be obtained by e-mail request as well.

C. H. Lochmüller

Editor-in-Chief

