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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Readers:

As I write this letter, the news continues about the latest terrorist acts in Spain. I feel it is important to repeat the last paragraph of my Issue (1) letter for 2004. Nanoscience presents to the measurement community many challenges that involve rather high local concentrations of material in a rather tiny physical environment. Challenges on a scale smaller than a human erythrocyte! What does this have to do with terrorism? The “dirty” bomb kills not just by radiation and, in fact, the biggest threat may be poisoning by air- and waterborne submicron particles of heavy metals such as plutonium [LD_{50} [human] = micrograms/kilogram], yet those particles need not be at high concentration in the background particles. What if the threat is not a heavy metal? What if it is a dry aerosol of encapsulated biotoxin or bio-organisms? What are the challenges? What can we do at present? 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. Guide for authors and copyright release forms can be obtained by e-mail request as well.

C. H. Lochmüller

Editor-in-Chief

