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## Critical Reviews in Analytical Chemistry

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### Letter from the Editor

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## Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers:

Another year has come and gone! In my forty-plus years in Analytical Chemistry, I have met many leaders and workers in the fields that make up chemical measurement science. As a consultant I have had the opportunity to critique and participate in measurements varying from detection of explosives, of biocides, the development of pharmaceuticals, the writing of compendial methods for drugs in trade, aspects of the human genome project, and even a small role in the commercialization of DNA amplification! This work above and beyond the research of my four decades in academic research. Chemical measurement science certainly provides intellectual stimulation.

What challenges do “we” face today? I am sure the Journal would entertain articles speculating on current and future challenges. I once wrote in a review article that all the research on gas chromatography had likely been done. Much excellent research would continue to be done with it, of course. How will we solve the problems of determining content of very large sample containers that cannot be opened nor can their internal contents be easily probed for physical samples? Containerized shipping containers the size of railroad freight cars are shipped by sea worldwide. What if one wanted to confirm the absence of any unlisted harmful contents while the container is at sea? I was once told that smuggling of radioactive materials would be easy to do in banana shipments because of the potassium content of bananas [ $^{40}\text{K}$  is naturally abundant]! Is this true? What bout nerve agents or weapons grade anthrax —do we have the means to detect covert shipments? Remember, 80% of the toys in the USA’s stores come from one source and we did not detect the presence of lead paint until millions of toys were passed by Customs and were on store shelves and the floors of children’s rooms! Yet, lead is something we know is “bad” and should be monitored-right? If recombinant methods will soon let us make drugs to treat disease in a specific person’s body—how will the quality control/quality assurance be done?

Feel free to write with suggestions and feel even freer to write and volunteer to write a challenging article!

Sincerely,

**C. H. Lochmüller**

**Editor-in-Chief**

