



Editor in chief

**Prof.Dr.
Aleksander Pavko**

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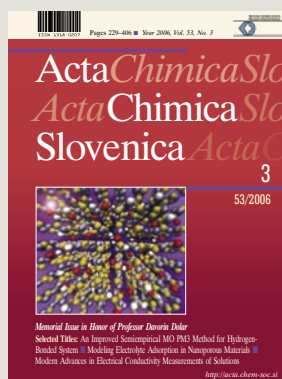
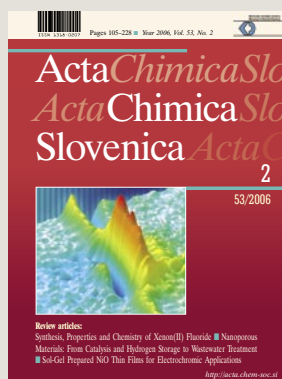
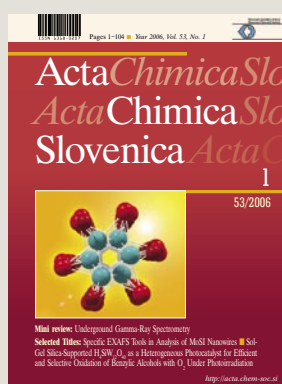
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Dear Colleagues

It has been a great challenge for me to take the responsibility and continue the excellent work of my colleague and former editor in chief, prof. dr. Janez Košmrlj. My understanding and approach to this editorship is as a team effort and so I have created a yearly plan, together with the associate editors. According to the circumstances, we have decided to invite guest editors for the first three issues and to dedicate them to the selected scientific fields. For this year, 76 articles have been published on 539 pages, 6 of them being reviews. This compares with last years 73 articles including 9 reviews on 477 pages, a healthy increase in the number of printed pages. Taking into account around 100 articles currently in the reviewing procedure, the growing interest for our journal in the international space is evident. *Acta Chimica Slovenica* is a gazette of Slovenian Chemical Society and this year the number of papers written by Slovene authors increased to around one half. Such is the satisfying progress which confirms that Slovene authors are also recognizing the robust scientific quality of their national journal and proving that foreign does not automatically equate to better.

Compared to the last few years we can observe an increase of submitted papers for inorganic and structural as well as in organic chemistry. The interest in analytical chemistry is also growing, although we miss articles covering the interesting field of biochemistry. As a chemical engineer by profession I regret that the papers covering this field remain as elusive as ever.

We carry out our editorial work alongside our teaching and research responsibilities at the University. The process for newly submitted manuscripts sees them run past my eyes first, before distribution to the corresponding associate editor. To reduce the quantity of technical editing I play the role of a filter. It is often a thankless task that has frequently been a disappointing experience with daily checking; how the manuscripts have been prepared? Have they been submitted according to the precisely written instructions to the authors? I have found out that about one half of the authors appear to demonstrate prescience and do not seem to read the necessary instruction. I have spent no small part of my editorial time in unnecessary communication with authors, sometimes several times, explaining what they need to



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do in order to begin the reviewing procedure for their work. We provide clear and explicit instructions on exactly how to prepare figures, literature citations and other requirements that are rightly the work of the authors rather than work for the technical editor. Therefore I would really like to ask all future authors to take into account only the second part of the well known rule: *'If it does not work, read the instructions'*. The editorial team would greatly appreciate this.

Reviewers present another interesting experience. Most of them have been kind and have done the job to various levels of quality or have at least managed to find a suitable excuse and suggested another reviewer. Reviewers play a crucial role and their help and expertise contributes to the quality of our journal and is very much appreciated. On the down side, I have met another disappointment in that a lot of chosen reviewers have not made time to answer any kind requests. It has not been unusual that we have had to contact five or even more reviewers and wait a few months to get two reviews for an article. This is potentially damaging, diminishing all those working in our discipline and is not what any of us would wish. All we can do here is to kindly ask all our colleagues to take the reviewing process as a necessary privilege rather than an enforced nightmare. We must also apologise to some authors for the extended processing time.

In spite of the afore mentioned problems which are certainly not unusual for publishing work, I am pleased to report our success in maintaining the established scientific level of *Acta Chimica Slovenica*. This we have done both in terms of article selection and our peer reviewing policy. It is with more than a little satisfaction I can say that our professional work of amateurs has been noticed. While it is not easy to obtain the financial support from Slovene companies through advertising (given resources have been sometimes inversely proportional to the company size), this year the funding of our Slovene Research Agency substantially increased. This has much improved our financial situation and we are very thankful for that. In addition, a well known world-wide publishing company has offered us their cooperation. These are substantial recognitions and I would like to sincerely express my gratitude to my diligent editorial team, devoted secretary, the authors and reviewers and all those others who have helped our journal to be published regularly and already two years in a new and more attractive form.

Prof. Dr. Aleksander Pavko
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