



Dear readers of *Acta Chimica Slovenica*

Acta Chimica Slovenica, the journal of the Slovenian Chemical Society, saw the light of day sixty years ago as *Kemijski zbornik*. During its growth at the beginning, it was published sporadically and sometimes late; yet, after 25 years, it became mature enough for regular publishing in the form of four issues per year. In the early 1990s, after Slovenia became independent, the Slovenian chemical society underwent reorganization as well. Its gazette was renamed into *Acta Chimica Slovenica* and was first published in 1993 as Volume 40. It was edited for almost fifty years only in the printed version, whereas in 1998, when Andrej Petrič became the editor in chief, it also obtained an electronic form as a result of his editorial policy. At that time, I joined the editorial team as a co-editor. Here, I would like to express my respect and thanks to those who have contributed to the development and popularity of our journal with their ideas and enthusiastic work from the very beginning.

In the last two decades, the editorial policy has been very simple, namely to publish articles with appropriate scientific value and novelty, articles which are interesting to a large number of readers in the international space as well. The latter has given some fruitful results. In 1999, the number of submitted articles exceeded one hundred, only about 40% of these being accepted. In 2002, *ACSi* obtained for the first time the impact factor (IF) of 0.12. The year 2005 brought a fresh impetus. Under the editorship of Janez Košmrlj, *Acta Chimica Slovenica* was given a new and attractive form designed by the academic painter Simon Kajtna. Two-column articles and new technical standards were introduced by an amateurish technical editor Vinko Volk, who was professionally performing his job for a couple of years. After that, a substantial increase in the number of submitted articles followed, slowly stabilizing in the last few years. The preparation of manuscripts for publishing was entrusted to the profes-

sional technical editor Stanislav Oražem. Currently, more than 400 articles are submitted and about one third of these published annually. In 2007, the impact factor exceeded the magic number one, IF equalled 1.093. In the following couple of years, it decreased to around 0.8 and grew back again in the last three years to more than 1.0. In 2005, there were five Slovenian scientific journals with the SCI indexation, while this year, their number has increased to twelve. *ACSi* is the best Slovenian scientific journal, which is a success in the national as well in the international chemical world.

In 2006, the leading of the editorial team was placed into my hands, and since then, we have all been doing our best to proceed with the already approved editorial policy to keep or even enhance the scientific quality of the journal along with its international recognition. Due to a large number of submitted manuscripts, the editorial team has been reorganized, associate editors covering the scientific fields of organic chemistry, inorganic chemistry, analytical chemistry, biochemistry and molecular biology, physical chemistry and materials science, as well as chemical, biochemical and environmental engineering, general chemistry, applied chemistry and biomedical applications. Considering the number of published papers, physical chemistry, organic chemistry and analytical chemistry are the most popular fields. In the last five years, each of the three fields presented about 15% of all papers, while the interest in biochemistry has slightly increased. The number of published papers in one field is mainly regulated by the authors and their understanding of the journal's mission, which is in turn evident from the contents of the journal's issues as a result of the editorial policy. The editorial team should identify interesting scientific fields and encourage authors accordingly to cover these fields with their papers. Since 2006, we have prepared fifteen issues with invited guest editors on various occasions, dedicated to selected scientific fields and in the next year, two more are to come. I am pleased to say that we have realized our plan from 2011 and succeeded that *ACSi* is indexed in the PubMed data base. Hopefully, the interest in our journal from biochemists is going to keep increasing in the future, as it still seems that the impact factor is still too low for most eminent Slovenian scientists, and it is the task of editors to arouse the feeling of affiliation and loyalty to the Slovenian Chemical Society and *Acta Chimica Slovenica*.

Since chemistry is also a quantitative science, some historical numbers at the 60th anniversary of *Acta Chimica Slovenica* will follow in the continuation. Since the very beginning, about 1,800 papers have been published on 21,000 pages, accounting for 67 tons of paper, while since 2005, when the present form was introduced, about 1,000 papers on 7,000 pages, i.e. 30 tons of paper, have been edited. The most cited article has reached almost 100 citations, whereas others on the top ten list have more than 40 citations. In the last five years, about 130 papers were published per year, with roughly 75% of scientific papers and 20% of short communications. Reviews and technical papers are rare. The majority of papers (i.e. 30%) are written by Slovenian authors, about 15% come from the Eastern and South-eastern

Europe, while the contributions from India, Iran and Turkey amount for about 10% each. Some papers are also from the Western Europe and the USA, and in the future, we would like to receive even more articles from this part of the world.

The editorial work of my team has not changed much since 2006. The editors are still trying to do their best, next to their teaching and research obligations. It is always a special challenge and pleasure for me to prepare together with Simon Kajtna a cover picture from the topics of one paper prepared for publication which tells an interesting story from the wide area of chemistry. Our job is extensive, serious and mostly voluntary work, professionally made by amateurs. We are responsible to the authors, readers and sixty years of the *ACSi* tradition. We spend a non-negligible part of our editorial time in communication with the authors, explaining to the majority of them how to prepare and correct their manuscripts. Furthermore, the attitude of reviewers has barely changed and has remained practically as challenging as in the past. They are somewhere between being communicative and mute, and at least one half of the selected reviewers have to be begged to find the time to evaluate a submitted manuscript. We wish to obtain a decision about the destiny of an article on the basis of two independent reviews as soon as possible. Nevertheless, the reviewing process at *ACSi* takes about 3–6 months, strongly depending on reviewer's good will and speed. Here, we can only apologize to some authors for the long processing time. Of course, such a large amount of correspondence and data management could not be conducted without the diligent and devoted – now already retired – secretaries Jana Tepina and Olga Gorše. A new, young secretary Marjana Gantar has recently enriched the editorial team and according to her responsible work done so far, it seems that she is the right choice for our team. After an issue is edited, we have an editorial meeting, where we discuss the results of our work and make plans for the future issues. I namely believe that a personal contact with a positive energy and in a pleasant atmosphere is intrinsic for fruitful editorial work, apart from the well-established communication by e-mail and phone. We also discuss the so-called "rainbow list" prepared by our secretary, where the destiny of each manuscript in review is registered and marked with various colours. For example, green is for "review at authors", yellow for "revised – in re-evaluation" and red for "too long evaluation – remind or replace reviewers". At this point, only gratitude could be expressed to my active editorial team, the authors and reviewers, and all the others who have helped to ensure that *Acta Chimica Slovenica* has been published regularly. Special thanks are also to the president of the Slovenian Chemical Society and publisher of *Acta Chimica Slovenica*, Slavko Kaučič, one of few people who have understood the value and extent of editorial work, and have encouraged us with his friendly relation and constructive attitude.

In the research world, success depends on ideas and invested work, and is not possible without the necessary financial support. The same holds true for scientific journals. It is somehow understandable that during the economic crisis, cost-cutting and financial restrictions have also reached scientific journals. The financial support from Slovenian companies through advertising has substantially decreased during the last few years. Fortunately, the National Institute of Chemistry and the Jožef Stefan Institute, Chemical and Rubber Industry association of Slovenia as well as four Slovenian faculties from the broad field of chemistry still

keep helping covering the publishing expenses. *Acta Chimica Slovenica* is also grateful for the funding from the Slovenian Book Agency and Slovenian Research Agency, which have covered the majority of journal costs. Despite all the help we have received, the financial resources have decreased for this and also for the next year. Regrettably, this allows only the survival of our journal and not its future development. It seems that a part of our chemical community and financial donors still do not understand the extent of editorial work. At every moment, we have more than sixty manuscripts in the reviewing process and now we are already planning special issues for 2015. We have to obtain about 500 reviews per year. Several meetings have taken place with the representatives of the Slovenian Book Agency, the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology, as well as with the Slovenian Research Agency; unfortunately, after the initial compliments and moral support, a long-term financial support has not been reached. The last contract for the financial support with the Slovenian Research Agency for this and the next year was signed in the middle of November, and will hopefully be realized in December, three issues of *ACSi* already being edited in this time.

The work on bringing in a well-known Open Journal System (OJS) did not start until this summer, even though this has been my wish for a few years now. "It is never too late" could fit here best as an apology. Nevertheless, I can finally announce that we are planning to kick off with it in January 2014 and I would like to express my gratitude to Alen Orbanic, who is the first to be credited with the implementation of OJS. I kindly ask the potential authors to carefully read the new instructions – they are also published in this issue – before the submission of their manuscripts in 2014.

And future plans? Information technology is developing fast and the number of electronic journals is increasing worldwide at the expense of printed journals. The traditional attitude of the Slovenian Chemical Society members has been to issue *ACSi* in the paper form. In the future, the printed edition will be probably reduced in order to adapt to the new publishing trends and the new financial situation. We should take more advantage of *Acta Chimica Slovenica* being a freely accessible journal on the website of the Slovenian Chemical Society; after all, this does consequently guarantee a good number of readers. Hopefully, the new instructions to the authors together with OJS will help in drawing a distinction of serious authors and interesting submitted manuscripts. Making a good use of this system, we are planning to publish electronic versions of manuscripts as soon as they are accepted, which could increase the scientific ranking of our journal. And it is high time to start working on the DOI System. We will rearrange the website of the Slovenian Chemical Society and electronically publish Slovenian professional papers; there have been quite a few of interesting topics in the last five years.

At the 60th anniversary of *Acta Chimica Slovenica*, we still possess the energy and positive thinking for the future. Recent achievements will hopefully suffice as strong enough to keep us continuing with our editorial work. Dissatisfaction presents the driving force behind the success and I believe that this will encourage us to new plans, and that our *Acta Chimica Slovenica* will continue being published for a long time – in its electronic and hopefully also printed form, giving us the feel of paper and enriching our bookshelves.

Aleksander Pavko
Editor in Chief