

Dear readers of *Acta Chimica Slovenica*



The journal of the Slovenian Chemical Society was first edited in 1953 as *Kemijski zbornik*. In 1993 it was renamed into *Acta Chimica Slovenica* and was initially published as Volume 40. For almost fifty years it was edited only in the printed version, until 1998, when Andrej Petrič

became the editor in chief, the journal obtained an electronic form as a result of his editorial policy. Around that time, I joined the editorial team as a co-editor. So let me briefly describe our work and mention some achievements during the last two decades.

Editorial policy was simple: articles with appropriate scientific value, novelty and interesting to a large number of readers in the international space were published. Some fruitful results were obtained quickly. In 1999, the number of submitted articles exceeded one hundred and only about 40% of these being accepted. In 2002, ACSi obtained the impact factor (IF) of 0.12 for the first time. In 2005 and under the editorship of Janez Košmrlj, two-column articles and new technical standards were introduced and *Acta Chimica Slovenica* was given a new and attractive form designed by the academic painter Simon Kajtna. A substantial increase in the number of submitted articles followed. For several years more than 400 articles have been submitted and about one third of these published annually. The preparation of manuscripts for publishing was entrusted to the professional technical editor Stanislav Oražem. In 2007, the impact factor slightly exceeded the magic number one and in the following years, it hovered around this value.

In 2006 I took over the editorship. 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.

Due to a large number of submitted manuscripts, new editorial team has been organized with 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, organic chemistry is the most popular field in the last decade. Since 2006, we have prepared more than twenty issues with invited guest editors on various occasions, dedicated to selected scientific fields. The most cited article has reached almost 100 citations, whereas others on the top ten list have more than 40 citations. In the last decade about 130 papers were published per year, being mainly scientific papers while, reviews and technical papers are rare. The majority of papers have been written by Slovenian authors.

The workload of the editor in chief has been diverse. Taking into account that there has been a little interest for a field editorship, leading a team of voluntary editors was not always easy and required rather complex and diplomatic approach. I was responsible to obtain enough papers per issue to be published. To achieve this I had to establish with my editorial team interesting editorial policy to attract as many readers as possible and consequently authors from all over the world. Appropriate scientific level and novelty of already published papers has worked as advertisement and stimulated scientists to report about their research results.

All submitted manuscripts have first appeared in my mailbox and I had to check if they corresponded to focus and scope of journal as well as if they were prepared according to author guidelines. Those with a positive mark were then assigned to associate editor of the field who started the reviewing process. The editors have been trying to do their best in communication with authors and reviewers next to their teaching and research obligations. Fortunately, there have been more than sixty manuscripts in the reviewing process at every moment, so theoretically there has been enough material for the next issue. Nevertheless, we had to obtain several hundred reviews per year that is two independent reviews per manuscript. It has

been very difficult to find active and quality reviewer who did his job in time. The majority of chosen reviewers have not found time to read the manuscripts or even answer the polite request of the editors. Luckily there has been a large group of communicative reviewers doing the job at various levels of quality and speed. Consequently the reviewing process at ACSi has taken about 3–6 months, strongly depending on reviewer's good will and speed. I had to ask frequently some field editors to finish the reviewing process and accept proper decisions as soon as possible. This has not been a pleasant job, especially because it has been for years repeated on monthly or even weekly basis.

When the reviewing process had finished, the editors sent the documentation with decision to the authors. In the case of positive reviews, authors corrected their manuscript according to the reviewers' comments and returned it to the editor. If everything was well done, the manuscript was accepted and sent to the technical editor.

About a month before release of an issue, communication between editor in chief and technical editor has been intensified to check the proofs, to sort the papers and to prepare the graphical contents. It has always been 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. After an issue has been edited, we had an editorial meeting, where we discussed the results of our work and made 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.

Cost-cutting and financial restrictions also reached *Acta Chimica Slovenica*. The majority of journal costs has been covered by Slovenian Research Agency for decades but have substantially decreased under my editorship. The financial support from Slovenian companies through advertising has been minor. Fortunately, the National Institute of Chemistry and the Jožef Stefan Institute as well as four Slovenian faculties from the broad field of chemistry have helped to cover the publishing expenses. Regrettably, this has allowed mostly the survival of our journal and not its substantial progress. This also caused a reduction of printed copies of an issue from 1200 to 200 for example. Anyhow, we did our best to follow the trends in infor-

mation technology and keep or even increase the value of our journal in the scientific world. ACSi is indexed in the PubMed data base from 2013. After about a six months of preparation we started with a well-known Open Journal System (OJS) in January 2014. Soon after that we started to work on DOI System which was introduced at the beginning of 2015, while later this year we started to check the manuscripts with plagiarism detection program Ithenticate. Making a good use of these systems, we publish electronic versions of manuscripts as soon as they are accepted hoping that this will increase the scientific ranking of our journal. ACSi has been an open access journal for almost two decades, however it is published under *Creative Commons* Attribution 3.0 License from January 2017. Here, I would like to express my gratitude to Alen Orbanić, who is the first to be credited with the implementation of these tools.

Before introduction of OJS system, a large amount of correspondence and data was conducted with diligent and devoted secretaries, regrettably deceased Jana Tepina and already retired Olga Gorše. Now Marjana Gantar continues quality and responsible work at ACSi as an administrative assistant. At this point, I express warm gratitude 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 Slavko Kaučič, the former president of the Slovenian Chemical Society and publisher of *Acta Chimica Slovenica*, who has well understood the value and extent of editorial work and has supported us with his constructive attitude. Half a year ago, Albin Pintar took over this role and I am sure that excellent cooperation with editors of *Acta Chimica Slovenica* will continue.

I liked the work for *Acta Chimica Slovenica*. But after a decade being an editor in chief, the time has come to handover the rudder to a new editor with fruitful energy and fresh ideas. I am glad that Ksenija Kogej accepted this challenge. She is communicative, well organized and has valuable scientific and leading references so I am sure that she will be able to complete this role. I wish her and her editorial team to enjoy in editorial work and to increase or at least to keep the interest of readers and the scientific value of *Acta Chimica Slovenica* on the international stage.

Aleksander Pavko