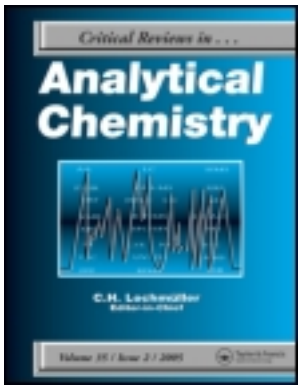

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Letter from the Editor

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Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers,

Unfortunately, some of the most challenging measurement problems come from "forensic" or "pathology" needs. The rapid diagnosis of disease by a combination of human insight and very selective measurement is an example of true "analysis." Measurement and interpretation are part of the analytical process. One carries out determination of gold. Deciding whether the gold is a contaminant of a sample of Baltic water or represents a source of vast wealth depends on many determinations in space and time. Disease is often not patient enough for the analyst to take her time offering a diagnosis.

I read recently that dogs can be trained to detect cellular phones in shipments to imprisoned recipients. What do they sense? I can remember the buried land mine detection efforts of the 1970s and the work to determine that what dogs and pigs detect are the residual slurry solvents used to fill the mine cases with TNT. If we are challenged to replace the dog with a sniffing machine, what do cell phones share as a common vapor emission?

Watch a six-year-old child enduring full body search in the chaos of an airport departure area and tell me how to do what the search technician is doing in a less traumatic fashion. Fast, selective, nonlethal, or even without cancer risk to the searched child is the measurement science challenge.

The Journal would consider articles regarding where the frontiers of chemical measurement lie in the present and the future for solving problems such as these.

Prof. C. H. Lochmüller
Editor-in-Chief