



## Editorial

**Editorial on “Critical overview of selected contemporary sample preparation techniques” by L. Ramos**

One way to describe a chromatographic method of analysis is to split it up in a number of stages. For example, we may consider sample preparation, sample introduction, chromatographic separation and data analysis as logical steps. To be successful, all these aspects of the method should be conducted well. It is rather futile to engage in fierce battles on which one is most difficult or most important. However, the sample-preparation area is arguably the most diverse field. This is due to the amazing versatility of chromatography. Because we are able to separate almost any mixture, we need methods to prepare almost any sample for chromatographic analysis. While chromatographers have been very successful in developing separation and detection systems that are generically applicable to great numbers of samples, the number of different sample-preparation techniques is almost as large as the number of different analytical methods.

I confronted Lourdes Ramos with a very difficult challenge when I asked her to try and create some order in this massive amount of

knowledge. Fantastic electronic tools, such as ScienceDirect and Scopus, make it increasingly easy to access vast amounts of knowledge, but the interpretation is still left to the scientist. The first word of this review is “Critical” and this immediately distinguishes the present overview from any automatically generated information. Therefore, I believe that the present review should be immensely useful to the reader.

Lourdes Ramos has demonstrated that she knows an awful lot about sample-preparation techniques and that she is able to critically assess and discuss the various options. She is arguably one of the best scientists in this field. If you are a practicing chromatographer this review should be at the top of your “must read” list!

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