

Publisher's note

## 50 Years *Journal of Chromatography*

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In 1958 the first volume of *Journal of Chromatography* was published: the first international journal dedicated to chromatography and electrophoresis, founded by Professor Michael Lederer. Hard work from the Editor, Elsevier, as well as many scientists resulted in an impressive first volume, published in 1958 and which consisted of more than 560 pages including contributions from top scientists in the field. Probably the most famous scientist who published an article in the first volume of *Journal of Chromatography* is James Lovelock, who invented the electron-capture detector. However, he is mostly known for his Gaia hypothesis, an ecological hypothesis that proposes that living and nonliving parts of the earth are viewed as a complex interacting system that can be thought of as a single organism.

From the publication of the first issue in print, 50 years ago, through the present day, a lot has changed in science, in publishing and hence in the *Journal of Chromatography* itself. First of all, the journal has expanded a lot: from 72 articles in the first year to about 2000 articles in 2007.

The growth of the *Journal of Chromatography* has not, however, by any means been automatic. Journals only become successful if they are created in response to the needs of the world of science in general and are edited and published in such a way that the continuing and constantly developing requirements of individual scientists are met. These requirements are concerned not only with the correct and prompt treatment of papers that have been submitted, but also careful adjustment of the scope of the journal to ensure that the coverage is sufficiently wide to take account of new developments in the field without straying too far into topics better dealt with elsewhere. It has always been the aim of the *Journal of Chromatography* to satisfy these demands, and its success indicates that its performance is regarded as satisfactory.

One example of *Journal of Chromatography*'s ability to respond to scientific developments is the split into *Journal of Chromatography A* and *B*. The enormous growth in the number of articles published on chromatography, and in particular in the area of bioanalysis, led in 1977 to a separate section on biomedical applications. The sections were later split further into two separate journals: *Journal of Chromatography A* (the "black" later "blue" section) and *Journal of Chromatography B* (the

"red" section). Both sections still exist and both do extremely well:

*Journal of Chromatography A* remains the most influential journal in separation sciences by publishing over 1200 articles each year, published in weekly issues. The journal receives more than 48,000 citations per year with an Impact Factor of 3.554 (Journal Citation Reports<sup>®</sup> 2007, published by Thomson Scientific). Many famous scientists have published their best work in the journal over the years. Professor Georges Guiochon for example, shows up in bibliographic studies as the most frequent author in the journal while Dr. Leslie Ettre could probably be considered the person that has been connected with *Journal of Chromatography* the longest: he first published in the journal in 1960 and still reviews for the journal.

*Journal of Chromatography B* remained somewhat smaller in size with about 700 published articles per year, but it is very successful in attracting top papers in the analytical technologies in the biomedical and life sciences. As examples, the highly cited thematic issue series on proteomics databases (parts 1–3) edited by Zdenek Deyl, the thematic issue on Peptide Separation and Analysis edited by Harald John and Ludger Ständker and the 2003 Review Volume: Interactions in Biological Systems edited by Zdenek Deyl, can be mentioned. This has resulted in a steady increase in Impact Factor for 8 consecutive years in a row to currently 2.647 (Journal Citation Reports<sup>®</sup> 2007, published by Thomson Scientific).

The most frequent authors in *Journal of Chromatography A*<sup>1</sup> are:

- (1) G.A. Guiochon (226 articles)
- (2) P.R. Haddad (116 articles)
- (3) U.A.Th. Brinkman (107 articles)

The most frequent authors in *Journal of Chromatography B* (see footnote 1) are:

- (1) J.H. Beijnen (60 articles)
- (2) I.W. Wainer (41 articles)
- (3) G. Blaschke (34 articles)

<sup>1</sup> Source: Scopus.

The most cited papers published in *Journal of Chromatography (A)* (see footnote 1) are:

- (1) “New metal chelate adsorbent selective for proteins and peptides containing neighbouring histidine residues”, by E. Hochuli, H. Döbili and A. Schacher, 411 (1987) 177–184.
- (2) “Resolution by high-performance liquid chromatography using polysaccharide carbamates and benzoates as chiral stationary phases”, by Y. Okamoto and Y. Kaida, 606 (1994) 403–419.
- (3) “Improved conditions and new data for the identification of lichen products by a standardized thin-layer chromatographic method”, by C.F. Culberson, 72 (1972) 113–125.

The most cited papers published in *Journal of Chromatography B* (see footnote 1) are:

- (1) “Validation of liquid chromatographic and gas chromatographic methods. Applications to pharmacokinetics”, by F. Bressolle, M. Petit-Bromet and M. Audran, 686 (1996) 3–10.
- (2) “Detection technologies in proteome analysis”, by W.F. Patton, 771 (2002) 3–31.
- (3) “Single cell gel electrophoresis assay: Methodology and applications”, by E. Rojas, M.C. Lopez and M. Valverde, 722 (1999) 225–254.

Next to scientific developments, there have also been many changes in publishing, whereby the influence of the start of the internet is probably the most notable. The online availability of the full text has even further increased the visibility of *Journal*

*of Chromatography*. Today almost 70,000 individual scientists read the journals each month, from well over 5300 institutes worldwide accessing the journal online. The total number of *Journal of Chromatography A* downloads<sup>2</sup> during 2007 was 2,456,734, and for *Journal of Chromatography B* the number was 858,264. *Journal of Chromatography A* is in the top 10 of most downloaded Elsevier journals.

Technology has made the world smaller, enhancing our ability to communicate. Also *Journal of Chromatography A* and *B* are truly international journals. They have readers and authors from more than 60 countries and in fact have been truly international from the very start. Already in the first issue there were contributions from all over the world. It contained not only articles written in English but also in French and German. Although the language in which articles are published today has changed to English only, the journal is still very international. Most recently this is demonstrated by the large increase in authors and readers from Asia and in particular China: since 2000, articles published by Chinese authors in the journals have increased with 385%.

Clearly the main credit for the success of *Journal of Chromatography* must go to the thousands of authors who have entrusted their work to the journal over the last 50 years, all referees who have spent their valuable time in helping others to improve, and Editors who review the submissions and select the best papers for publication. We take this opportunity of thanking all of you, whether past or present contributors and in any of these roles, who have jointly contributed your time and expertise in helping to make the *Journal of Chromatography* such an outstanding publication.

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<sup>2</sup> Source: ScienceDirect.