Editorial

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Dear Colleagues,

The present issue of the *Journal of Planar Chromatography—Modern TLC* (JPC) is the fourth one in 2020 and contains 2 reviews and 9 publications written by leading scientists in the field of high-performance thin-layer chromatography (HPTLC) and thin-layer chromatography (TLC). The topics of the reviews span from bioactive compounds to heavy metals and the original research papers comprise the analysis of an immune-chromatographic assay, the analysis of forensic samples, dyes, botanical analysis and the analysis of pharmaceutical active compounds. In detail, the present issue comprises the analysis of drugs of abuse in human urine, determination of duloxetine, adapalene as well as riociguat in pharmaceutical formulations, the detection of ephedrine and its analogues in forensic samples, the quantification of azo dyes in consumer goods like sweets, the determination of lupeol and β -sitosterol in stem bark and the analysis of six bioactive terpenoids in *Putranjiva roxburghii* Wall., a tropical tree. A mini review deals with the TLC analysis of mangiferin, a bioactive antioxidant from dietary plant sources and the second review picked out the TLC analysis of heavy metals in the last 20 years. With this content, the present issue is a typical example of HPTLC applications. The method is strong in separating samples containing only a small number of compounds. An advantage of HPTLC is its simplicity in handling, although quantitative results obtained are comparable to other methods like spectrophotometry. The paper “Comparative study of spectrophotometric and spectrodensitometric techniques for the estimation of riociguat in tablets” from the group of P. Dedhiya *et al.* underlines this. HPTLC can also be coupled with additional detection methods like mass spectrometry (MS) as shown in the paper “Validation of analytical method

for detection of ephedrine and its analogues in forensic samples using HPTLC–MS” from the group of N. Tomar.

Behind these works, there are always scientists who publish papers in order to share their knowledge with the scientific community and thus advance research. A laboratory is essential for conducting analytical research as well as the help of staff and students. Running a laboratory and employing staff means submitting research proposals in order to receive money, and—if the scientist works at a university—he or she must also train the next generation of scientists. Working with students and doctoral candidates in particular demonstrates the great strength of *Humboldt's* educational ideal: teaching and learning. Only those who can explain have understood it properly, and real understanding is the basis for new ideas. I am sure that every scientist will agree with me on this point. In addition, the profession of a professor has another advantage. You are constantly in contact with the young generation and that keeps you young yourself.

This brings me to the last point of this Editorial. It is my great pleasure and honour to convey my best wishes to Professor *Monika Waksmundzka-Hajnos* on the occasion of her 70th birthday. She is a member of JPC's Advisory Board and she is an outstanding scientist with large expertise in the field of chromatography, especially HPTLC. Professor *Monika Waksmundzka-Hajnos* was born on May 23rd, 1950 in Lublin, Poland. She inherits from a family with scientific tradition and studied at the Faculty of Chemistry of the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin. From the same university in 1980, she took her PhD degree in analytical chemistry, supervised by Professor *Edward Soczewiński*, who also was a member of JPC's Advisory Board. From the very beginning on, her own professional career has been connected to the Medical University of Lublin, where she climbed up all the steps of an academic ladder from a young assistant to full professor at the Faculty of Pharmacy and where now she heads the Department of Inorganic and General Chemistry.

Her abundant number of publications includes over 200 scientific papers, most of which have been published in the

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leading chromatography journals (e.g., J. Chromatogr. A, J. Chromatogr. B, J. Chromatogr. Sci., J. Planar Chromatogr.—Mod. TLC, J. Liq. Chromatogr. Relat. Technol., etc.).

JPC thanks Professor *Monika Waksmundzka-Hajnos* for her support of the last years and wishes her many years ahead in good health and successful perpetuation of all her fruitful activities and passions.

Bernd Spangenberg
Editor-in-Chief

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