Preface

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Chemistry Africa (CHAF) is a new journal devoted to the publication of research articles in all branches of chemistry. It is owned by the Tunisian Chemical Society (TCS) which was founded 40 years ago. CHAF takes its source from the former *Journal of the Tunisian Chemical Society (Journal de la Société Chimique de Tunisie, JSCT)* to host research articles mostly by Tunisian chemists. As part of its Middle East and North Africa (MENA) programme, Springer has decided to host CHAF and to publish it on behalf of the TCS, a very active learned society committed to disseminate knowledge on all aspects of chemistry not only in Tunisia and neighbouring countries but also in all regions of the globe.

Historically speaking, Tunisia has developed numerous international collaborations in chemical and other sciences with more than 100 partner countries. This is more than enough reason to now give its historical JSCT a new and international dimension involving chemists from nearly 30 countries in its editorial board. This important change led to re-baptize JSCT “Chemistry Africa” (CHAF). However, this was not a question of adapting a new title only, but rather that systematic change and further development of the former JSCT were needed. To reach this target, the TCS has spent time and effort gathering experts from various branches of chemistry who were committed to build together a new chemistry journal dedicated to publishing original and review papers on timely topics. As a matter of fact, if we consider the geographical niche of CHAF it is the one and only chemistry journal to date from Africa published by a historical, well-known and trusted publisher on the dimension and ranking of Springer.

By considering research articles on innovative materials, chemical reactions/processes, analytical sciences, theoretical and physical chemistry, and by extending the scope to

historical perspectives, laboratory experiments and education in general, safety guidelines as well as selected proceedings of conferences organized by the TCS and other learned societies, the CHAF team will impart the journal unique and appealing topics diversity to a broad audience.

Having said that the frequently asked question “do we need another chemistry journal?” yet still remains. The response in this particular case is “definitely, yes!”. It is not only because more journals are needed to disseminate the skyrocketing number of sound research in chemistry from many countries, but also exactly because the CHAF team is determined to publish only original, high-quality manuscripts which will be carefully selected from regular submissions and themed or special issues. For the latter, papers will be collected during international conferences organized by the TCS or by other societies in association with the TCS. However, CHAF will remain open to unsolicited themed issues on some hot topics.

For its inaugural double issue, CHAF is publishing papers on, e.g. microwave- and ultrasonic-assisted synthesis of organic compounds, antibacterial metal complexes, anti-cancer properties of plant chemical extract, tunable photoluminescence of ZnS-based nanocrystals, triangular gold nanoplates for uric acid biosensors, and DFT computations to understand coordination selectivity or Mg-substitution of chlorophyll by metal ions. Clearly, CHAF is taking off, and this very first double issue only gives a glimpse into the journal’s breadth.

Much care has been taken to ensure quality by the expert reviewers and editors in evaluating the submitted papers. Some manuscripts have been accepted after one revision, but others after 4–5 revisions when it was necessary to go this way for the sake of quality. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all reviewers for their guidance and recommendations and expert editors for their time and care in handling the manuscripts. This careful approach has resulted in a rejection rate of 66–75%.

In the only 7 months of existence of CHAF, as Executive Editor-in-Chief, I could witness the improvement in the quality of the papers submitted. This is most

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probably attributable to word-of-mouth advertising by satisfied authors and reviewers about the constructive and careful editorial process by the CHAF team for quality concern. In this respect, for example, papers that showed a high similarity extent were returned to their authors for revision before review.

From a personal viewpoint, I would like to say that it is a great honour and a privilege to serve the TCS which is celebrating this year its 40th anniversary as Executive Editor-in-Chief of *Chemistry Africa, A Journal of the Tunisian Chemical Society*. It is a difficult and challenging task but I am committed to build, with the help of all editors and editorial board members as well as with our reviewers who unselfishly devote their time, a solid journal that will be paving its way to become the premier journal of chemistry

in Africa by publishing high-quality research not only from Africa but also from the five continents (NB: seven countries from North America, Europe, Asia and Africa contributed to the first double issue).

Chemistry Africa enjoys a fantastic team supported by professionals at Springer who I would like to thank very warmly for their fast, constant and efficient help.

I do hope you will enjoy reading this inaugural double issue of *Chemistry Africa* and look forward to receiving your contributions. Your comments and suggestions intended to strengthen the journal are most welcome.

Mohamed M. Chehimi
Executive Editor-in-Chief
On behalf of the Tunisian Chemical Society