

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Celebrating 30 Years of Bioresource Technology Unit – A Tribute to the Role of *CCT*

Dear Editor-in-Chief,

In late 1984, the undersigned was elected as a junior faculty member of the Chemical Engineering School at the prestigious National Technical University of Athens, in Greece. Shortly after his appointment, the young professor went ahead to establish a new research group, the Bioresource Technology Unit (BTU), of which we are now proud to celebrate 30 years of successful activities. The purpose of this *Letter to the Editor* is to present and recognize the vital role the *Cellulose Chemistry and Technology (CCT) Journal* has played in supporting the achievements of BTU during its life so far.

Well, for those not yet familiar with its work, the BTU is a team dedicated to R&D as a lever/catalyst for the emerging biobased development, with emphasis on the critical role of bioresources, i.e. biomass, from technical, environmental, economic, and other points of view. In particular, the BTU research portfolio includes six areas of investigation: bioresource assessment (potential, properties); biorefineries (fractionation, pretreatments); plant fibres (especially of nonwood type); “clean” biochemical pathways to biofuels (bioethanol, biohydrogen); “green” thermochemical pathways to bioenergy (torrefaction, gasification); and finally, modelling, design and management of sustainable bio-systems for local and regional development.

In a nutshell, the BTU’s main achievements throughout its 30-year-long history include: more than 100 refereed publications in international journals that have received so far more than 2100 citations, equivalent to an H-factor (google) of 24; also, more than 10 international patents, and more than 500 conference and other papers. This rich productivity is the result of more than 50 R&D projects, which were financed by European, national and other sources, public and private, and involved more than 100 R&D groups from 30 countries in 4 continents. The key agents in those projects and the resulting publications have been the young BTU researchers, who have obtained their graduate degrees by preparing more than 20 PhD Theses, and more than 200 MSc ones.

The *CCT Journal* has actually played a very significant role in this bright success story. To start with productivity, this journal dominates the list of BTU papers, with a total of 14 publications in the 27 years between 1986 and 2013, i.e. one appearance every other year. The *CCT* is followed on the list of BTU papers by the journals *Bioresource Technology* and *Biomass & Bioenergy*, with 10 publications each. The complete list of the 14 BTU papers published in *CCT* is presented in the References section following this Letter [1-14].

The *CCT* papers of BTU have been co-authored by 30 researchers from 10 countries, as shown (in alphabetical order) by the following list, with the names of the 10 PhD candidates (i.e., about half of all those of BTU) denoted with a star: Abaecherli, D.A.; Avgerinos, E.*; Billa, E.; Christakopoulos, P.F.*; Demakopoulos, S.I.; Economides, D.; Economou, A.M.*; Gosselink, R.; Kekos, D.; Koukios, E.G.; Koullas, D.P.*; Koutsoula, E.; Krokida, M.; Kurek, B.; Lehnen, R.; Macris, B.J.; Moncada, P.; Monties, B.; Oreopoulou, V.*; Papadaki, S.*; Papatheofanous, M.G.*; Quintus, P.; Saake, B.; Saeid, I.B.J.*; Sidiras, D.K.*; Suren, J.; Tsimas, S.G.; Tsoutsos, T.D.*; Vasile, C ; Vgenopoulos, A.G.

The 14 papers of the BTU group published in *CCT* have received, according to Google, a total of close to 100 citations, thus contributing to the *CCT Journal's* effort for Impact Factor growth during all this period. The protagonists on the quantitative side are ref. no. 9, 5 and 4, with about half of the total citations (14, 17, and 18, respectively); and on the qualitative side with ref. no. 13, 12, and 9, with ca. 1 citation per paper for each year following its publication. Overall, paper ref. no. 9, on prehydrolysis - organolv fractionation, published in 1995, shows the best performance on both counts.

Last but not least, we should mention the special link between BTU and *CCT* developed by the relatively early invitation to the group leader to join the journal's Advisory Board, an organic link that lasts until now, and brings a deeper perspective in the synergies expected between a research group and a scientific journal.

Thank you, *CCT*!

Emmanuel G. Koukios
BTU Head
CCT Advisory Board Member

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