

Greetings from the new editor-in-chief

I am honoured to succeed to the position of editor-in-chief of the journal *Cellulose Chemistry and Technology*, one of the outstanding scientific journals published by the Romanian Academy, following its founder and former editor-in-chief – Prof. Cristofor I. Simionescu.

To begin with, I would like to look back over the history of the journal. The publication was established in 1966, following the initiative of reputed scientists (among them G. Centola, V. A. Karghin, F. F. Nord, V. I. Sharkov, E. Huseman, M. Chene, N. I. Nikitin, G. Jayme, P. H. Hermans, G. Champetier, E. Correns, Z. A. Rogovin, A. I. Kalninh, K. Freudenberg, F. A. Brauns, I. Sakurada, K. V. Sarkanen, H. Mark, A. Bjorkman, *et al.*), who entrusted Professor Simionescu with the mission of founding a journal devoted to cellulose chemistry, as a sign of the unanimous recognition of the Romanian scientific contributions in the field.

Along the years, the journal published the valuable contributions of foreign and Romanian specialists, thus contributing to a considerable extent to establishing the necessary contacts with the international scientific community.

Cellulose Chemistry and Technology has always acted as a medium for exchanging information and ideas on all aspects of natural macromolecular compounds, wood and annual plants. It covers fundamental studies and applications of natural polymers in areas such as pulp and paper, textiles, wood, adhesives, pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, biofuels, bioenergy and environmental protection.

Unfortunately, the political barriers, so effective until 1989, and the serious financial problems we have been facing up to in the long transition installed after the Romanian revolution contributed to losing the scientific priorities attained (under incredibly difficult conditions), and equally, to isolating the Romanian specialists from the international community of science. Despite this, at present, the Romanian scientific community is fully integrated in Europe, so that numerous opportunities, involving an active participation at various scientific programs, permitting the development of direct cooperation relationships with scientists from all over the world, are now available. Against such a background, the conjugated dynamism and enthusiasm of the whole European scientific community will finally and decisively contribute to the settlement of normal cooperation relations among all those faithfully involved in supporting humanity and truth.

In recent years, thanks to the contribution of our authors, reviewers, readers and, last but not least, due to our publisher, the Romanian Academy, and to the support of the Polysaccharides European Network of Excellence, we have witnessed a continuous improvement of the journal's quality and, indeed, more is yet to come. Backed up by my colleagues forming the Editorial Board, our unceasing aim is to publish excellent manuscripts.

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