



## Preface

This is the fourth special issue of *Analytica Chimica Acta* dedicated to young North American analytical faculty members. The three previous issues were organized by Daniel Raftery (1999), Jonathon Sweedler (1995), and Sarah Rutan and Vicki McGuffin (1991). The past issues are filled with articles from faculty who have made a significant impact on analytical chemistry and are current leaders in the field today. This issue will be no exception as it contains contributions from many exceptional young analytical chemists who are certain to be the future leaders of our field and chemistry in general.

My job as guest editor for this issue was to identify the most promising young analytical faculty and invite them to contribute a research article to this issue. After several hours of searching web pages of research institutions in North America (mostly US and Canada), I found that there are well over 100 untenured analytical faculty members. The large number of academic positions that have been available to analytical chemists in recent years reflects the growth and importance of our discipline, which is also confirmed by the large number of industrial opportunities available to analytical chemists.

The contributors to this issue are very young, most of them untenured assistant professors in their first 5 years of appointment. The remarkable accomplishments made by the faculty members highlighted in this issue are abundantly clear from reading their biographies, especially when noting the high level of funding, the large number of starter grants, and the impressive number of NSF CAREER awards obtained. This demonstrates the high quality of analytical research being conducted by young faculty and it also

shows the importance of our field to chemistry and the entire scientific community.

Analytical chemistry is made up of many subdisciplines. Strict classifications are not always appropriate and new fields are constantly emerging, especially in the areas of nanotechnology, materials, bioanalysis, microscopy, lab-on-a-chip devices, single molecule detection, miniaturized chemical sensors, microfluidics, environmental chemistry, and non-linear optical spectroscopy. Many of these areas are represented in this issue, showing that these young faculty members are engaged in cutting-edge research at the frontier of analytical chemistry. Multidisciplinary research is a growing trend in science, very prevalent in the analytical community, and exemplified by the research contributions in this issue, which has led to great success for these individuals.

I am honored and proud to have worked on this special issue and want to thank Richard Baldwin from the University of Louisville for this wonderful opportunity. In helping to identify the most talented young analytical faculty I had the privilege of meeting and sharing dialogue with some extraordinary scientists and people. I hope you enjoy the research contributions of this highly talented group. I am certain you will hear more from them in the future.

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