

Editorial

The 26th Latin American Congress of Chemistry (XXVI *Congresso Latino-Americano de Química - CLAQ*) and the 27th Annual Meeting of the Brazilian Chemical Society (*Reunião Anual da Sociedade Brasileira de Química - RASBQ*), which took place in Salvador, Bahia from May 30th to June 2nd gathered together three thousand participants, of whom over 10% were from foreign lands, mainly from fifteen Latin American countries. The city of Salvador was an excellent backdrop for holding these conferences and presenting studies, as well as for the productive scientific discussions generated amongst the colleagues present. The scientific activities went beyond the Convention center, reaching into the historic streets of the lovely city, where the participants had ample opportunity to enjoy the cultural and historical aspects so characteristic of this area of Brazil. Without a doubt, they also appreciated the beautiful scenery and contagious happiness of the Bahians. Be it whether for the elevated level of the program, or the great number of participants, all the evaluations by *CLAQ* members were highly positive.

Among the scientific activities developed during the Meeting, which are an ordinary part of the Latin American Federation of Chemical Societies, two meetings are noteworthy concerning the *JBCS*. The first was a meeting carried out by initiative of the American Chemical Society (ACS), attended by the presidents of Latin American scientific societies, the IUPAC president, representatives from the ACS publications division and the editors of the publications of *SBQ* (*JBCS*, *Química Nova* and *Química Nova na Escola*). The objective of this meeting was to present the ACS initiatives directed towards Latin America to motivate cooperation among the societies. *SBQ* publications were presented, highlighting the *JBCS* as a periodical of international character, in which we emphasized the latest innovations of this periodical as to its organization, divulgation and consolidation, especially the implementation of an electronic system for submission of articles and their follow-up, and the recent increase in the impact factor of this periodical (measured by the ISI). The following presentation, on the ACS publications sector, left no doubt as to the importance dedicated to the Latin American countries which have so significantly participated in these publications, be it as authors or subscribers. Brazil, specifically, is responsible for over 1% of ACS publication downloads. The most promising result of this meeting was

establishing dialog and information exchange among the publishing sectors of the different societies, with reference to the exchange of ideas on the organization of electronic pages of these different societies in relation to their publications.

The second meeting was held by the *JBCS* publishers and the *Revista de la Sociedad Química de México*. This meeting was motivational for the conversations begun at the beginning of the year, aiming to increase collaboration between the two publications. These talks culminated with the decision that both of these societies publish a special joint number of each of these periodicals. This special issue will bring scientific contributions from both countries and be open to the community which will be able to submit works using the online system which has already become tradition for the *JBCS*. The presentation of this special edition should take place at the next *Annual Meeting of the Brazilian Chemical Society (Reunião Anual da SBQ*, in Poços de Caldas, State of Minas Gerais, 2005) and will be attended by our Mexican colleagues. This scientific cooperation, as well as the exchange of experience with other publications, adds a fundamental relevance to our society, and is especially noteworthy considering the importance of our periodicals in Latin America and the role of Brazilian science in the world today, as was shown in the June 14, 2004 issue of *Chemical and Engineering News*. In this issue a survey is mentioned which indicates a great increase in publications from different countries, including Brazil, whose participation grew from 0.4 to 1.1% of the articles published in science and technology from all over the world from 1988 to 2001. It is our hope that this special issue of the *JBCS* in conjunction with the *Sociedad Mexicana de Química* will be a step in this direction.

It is our belief that cooperation with our Latin American neighbors cemented during the Salvador Meeting deserves special attention, while it in no way detracts from our relations with other countries of the Americas and Europe. We believe that incipient collaboration with our sister societies is an excellent continuation of the development of Brazilian Chemistry, as presented in the special issue of *Química Nova* - (*A Química no Brasil* - Chemistry in Brazil), on the creation, expansion and consolidation of chemistry in Brazil over the last 27 years.

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