

Chemistry has remarkably contributed to the improvement of the quality of life by discovering new materials, medicines, fertilizers, production processes, among many other contributions. However, such benefits are limited in developing countries which, through the years, and in a complex and variable world context, generally have exported raw materials and have imported technological and industrial packages, not always under proper conditions. This generates distortions in the social development, the consumption of the natural resources, and the degradation of nature. The solutions for these problems require, among many other issues, the strengthening of scientific research and its connection with industry, in search of alternatives that promote ethical exploitation of the natural resources, social benefits, and preservation of nature. Chemistry plays a central role in this context.

The Chemical Societies of different countries have displayed efforts toward this direction, binding the professionals in research, education, technological development and industry. The Chemical Societies of Brazil and Mexico are not the exception. Both have organized through the years scientific and educational meetings, and have carried out the edition of pertinent publications, among other activities.

The professional meetings, the National Congresses and the Latin American Chemical Congresses have played an important role in the field of this science in our countries. However, the aspects related to the national or regional scientific journals show controversies that have been mentioned previously.¹ In spite of the fact that many researchers prefer publishing their results in journals from the first world, the role of scientific journals from

developing countries in reflecting their own reality and strengthening of their scientific culture and tradition is undeniable.

In two years, the *Journal of the Mexican Chemical Society* will complete five decades of serving Mexican students and professionals of chemistry. On its side, in few years, the *Journal of the Brazilian Chemical Society* has admirably emerged as an important scientific journal.² In search of joining efforts, the edition of an special issue between the *J. Braz. Chem. Soc.* and the *J. Mex. Chem. Soc.*, including research articles from both countries, was concerted during the 26th Latin American Chemical Congress, held in Salvador, Bahía, Brazil, in 2004.^{3,4}

The collaborative work during the last months between the authors, referees and editors of both journals was very instructive, and thanks to the positive response of all the participants, the joint issue was integrated properly. We hope that this issue will promote collaboration between the journals of the Chemical Societies of Brazil and Mexico. We also hope that this collaboration could be extended to other sister Societies of the region for the benefit of the development of Chemistry in Latin America.

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References

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