

Dear Readers,

It is with great pride that this year we celebrate the 40th anniversary of the first issue of our *Journal*. The first issue, published under the name *Гласник на хемичарите и технолозите на Македонија (Bulletin of Chemists and Technologists of Macedonia)* was a joint endeavor of the Institute of Chemistry at the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics and the Faculty of Technology and Metallurgy organized within the Society of Chemists and Technologists of Macedonia. It was decided that instead of having two separate faculty publications to merge them into one publication. The first Editor-in-chief was Prof. Dr. Bojan Šoptrajanov, and traditionally the editors have alternated between these two institutions: Prof. Dr. Svetomir Hadži-Jordanov (1989), Prof. Dr. Gligor Jovanovski (1993), Prof. Dr. Maja Cvetkovska (1997), Prof. Dr. Trajče Stafilov (2001), Prof. Dr. Eleonora Winkelhausen (2005) and my humble self (2009).

The ambitions were high from the beginning when the standards of *Documenta Chimica Yugoslavica* were implemented – the journal was tailored to the corresponding chemical society publications with much greater tradition in Serbia, Croatia and Slovenia. Very important editorial policies were introduced after 1989 when it was decided to publish all scientific papers solely in English (with only a title, abstract and keywords in Macedonian) and to subject all manuscripts to stringent peer review by two anonymous reviewers of which one had to be outside of Macedonia. Other seminal editorial decisions were undertaken in 2006. Plans were drawn to change the title to the present one, which took place in 2007, and more importantly to become an open access journal with full access on the web, as well as fulfilling the requirements for an impact factor. The results followed soon – MJCCE was included in *Science Citation Index Expanded* in 2007 and after three years in *Journal Citation Report/Science Edition* in 2010 when it obtained its impact factor: 2010 – 0.200; 2011 – 0.459; 2012 – 1.079; 2013 – 0.821.

What does the future hold? From the onset as an editor-in-chief my primary goal was to attract higher quality research groups/papers and that goal will be continuously pursued in the future. Another objective was to introduce full web based management system, which has been implemented, but the contemporary requirements for a digital journal have not been finalized. We are planning in the near future to assign DOIs to every article, provide digital archiving to all published material, link all references etc. Furthermore, we are hopeful that we will find continuous reliable funding and overcome one of the major difficulties of all previous editors-in-chief – cover the publishing expenses and spend more time on enhancing the content and technical quality of MJCCE.

In the past 40 years, the road has not been easy but the results have been rewarding and all enthusiasts who have been involved in these efforts throughout the years should be pleased and proud. This is a great opportunity to thank all editors, contributing authors, peer reviewers, readers and supporters for where the *Macedonian Journal of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering* proudly stands today. It has grown and we hope will continue to grow with the progress of chemical and chemical engineering science in Macedonia.

Zoran Zdravkovski
Editor-in-chief