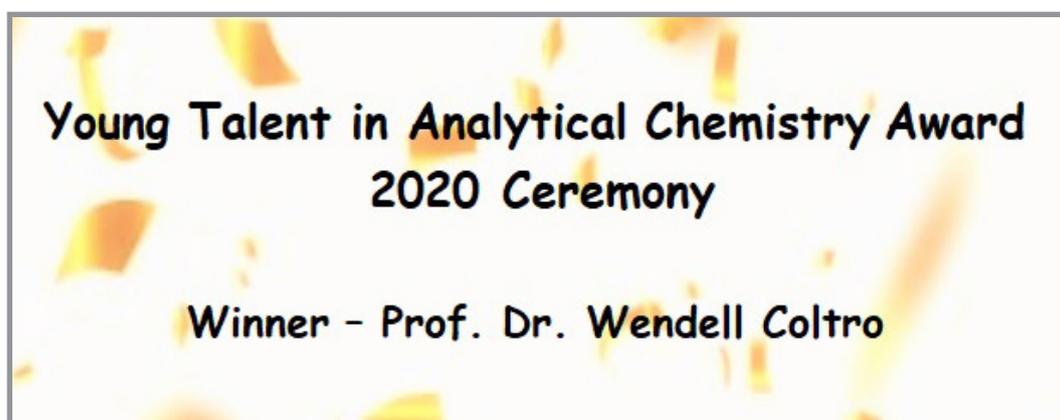


FEATURE

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BrJAC Young Talent in Analytical Chemistry Award 2020

BrJAC created the annual Young Talent in Analytical Chemistry award to recognize outstanding young researchers in Analytical Chemistry. The winner of the 2020 award was Prof. Dr. Wendell Karlos Tomazelli Coltro, Associate Professor and Director of the Institute of Chemistry at the Federal University of Goiás (IQ-UFG), Brazil.



“I was extremely happy and honored with the recognition given to me by BrJAC. This award crowns almost 20 years of total dedication to science, including almost 7 years of post-graduation studies involving master’s, doctorate, and post-doctorate education and 12 years leading a dedicated and committed research group at the Federal University of Goiás. Therefore, there are no words to express my feeling for the recognition that BrJAC gave me by awarding me the Young Talent in Analytical Chemistry Award. Without the dedication of all members of our research group and without family support from my wife and two daughters, this certainly would not have happened. For this reason, I dedicate this award to my research group and my family” thanked Coltro when receiving the award.

The award ceremony was held online on November 26, 2020 with the participation of the special guest Prof. Dr. Boniek Gontijo Vaz (IQ-UFG) who presented the scientific curriculum of the awardee. After the award ceremony, Prof. Wendell Coltro presented a live webinar entitled “Portable Analytical Tools for Bioanalytical and Forensic Applications”.

Access a video of the award ceremony and the webinar [here](#)

In a brief interview for BrJAC, Prof. Dr. Wendell Coltro described how his career started and advised those who are starting their scientific careers. Check it out below:

BrJAC: How did you start your professional career?

Coltro: My career began in 1997. I was finishing high school and liked chemistry and mathematics subjects. At first, I thought about taking a course in Chemical Engineering at the State University of Maringá in Paraná, where I passed the third call in a winter entrance exam. However, at the end of the same year, after clarifying my doubts about a career in chemical engineering, I decided to take a new entrance exam, now for the Chemistry course, and I was approved at the same institution. I concluded the Chemistry course in 2002, and in the middle of the same year I decided to do postgraduate studies. I participated in the selection processes of the post-graduate programs in Chemistry at the University of Campinas and

at the University of São Paulo in the city of São Carlos. I chose to attend the post-graduation course in São Carlos under the guidance of Prof. Dr. Emanuel Carrilho, who proposed a research project involving microfabrication, electrophoresis, and electrochemical detection. It was very challenging, and I had many instrumental and operational difficulties because the area I chose was very innovative. Today, seeing everything we have built scientifically, I would do it all over again in the same way and with the same advisor. I feel very proud to have been guided by a professional like Prof. Carrilho, who always showed me the paths to follow, with great humility and sincerity.

BrJAC: What advice would you like to offer to those at the beginning of a career in science?

Coltro: We are experiencing a moment of extreme difficulty, where the uncertainties are increasing. The best advice I would give the youngest is to have perseverance, dedication and commitment. This tripod is essential to achieve our goals. If it does not happen as planned, it will happen through new discoveries! This is what I learned from my advisor and what I pass on to all the students that I guide. The result is always positive.

BrJAC: What are your plans for the future?

Coltro: In the face of all the adversities we are going through, the future is very uncertain. However, I hope to continue contributing to scientific and technological progress with the great goal of seeing society benefit from new technologies that favor improved quality of life. For this to happen, we must narrow the divide between academia and the productive sector.

BrJAC: What you are currently working on?

Coltro: Currently, I coordinate the Microfluidics and Electrophoresis Group, located at the Institute of Chemistry of the Federal University of Goiás, Brazil. Our group focuses on the development of portable devices for applications in diverse areas, such as environmental, bioanalytical, biomedical, forensic, and clinical diagnostics areas. Among the devices, it is worth highlighting the effort in search of simple, accessible, inexpensive materials that, at the same time, offer reliability for quick analysis directly at the point of need. In addition, our group has been active in the manufacture of microfluidic devices, electrochemical devices, and wearable sensors via 3D printing.



Prof. Dr. Wendell K. T. Coltro with the Young Talent in Analytical Chemistry Award certificate.