Brazilian Journal of Analytical Chemistry
2023, Volume 10, Issue 40, pp 1-2
doi: 10.30744/brjac.2179-3425.editorial.women.chem.N40

BrJAC

EDITORIAL

Women in (Bio)Analytical Chemistry: *Moving Towards Equity and Inclusion*

Márcia Andreia Mesquita Silva da Veiga
Guest Editor of this BrJAC special edition on Women in (Bio)Analytical Chemistry
Associate Professor in the Department of Chemistry at the Faculty of Philosophy, Sciences, and Letters of Ribeirão Preto, University of São Paulo, SP, Brazil

Maria das Graças Andrade Korn
Guest Editor of this BrJAC special edition on Women in (Bio)Analytical Chemistry
Full Professor at the Institute of Chemistry, Federal University of Bahia, BA, Brazil

Women's participation in science has been an increasingly relevant and discussed topic in recent decades. Throughout history, women have faced numerous barriers and challenges to enter and stand out in this field of knowledge. However, despite the difficulties, women have contributed significantly to scientific advancement in all areas. In Brazil, the discussion about the participation of women in science has been highlighted in national events around analytical chemistry and academia. Thus, some changes have been implemented to minimize the differences discussed herein.

Today we see more and more women engaged in science, holding prominent positions as researchers, professors, and leaders in their fields. They exist in many scientific disciplines, including physics, chemistry, biology, mathematics, engineering, and technology. In addition, women have also been involved in emerging and interdisciplinary areas such as computer science, artificial intelligence, and biotechnology.

It is crucial to promote gender equality in chemistry by providing an inclusive environment and encouraging the active participation of women. This can be achieved by implementing policies that promote equal opportunities, encouraging female role models and mentors, supporting women chemists' training and professional development, and valuing and recognizing their contributions.

Women's participation in chemistry is essential to scientific advancement in this field. We bring unique perspectives, creativity, and skills to address chemical challenges and contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of chemical processes and their practical applications. Gender diversity in chemistry drives innovation and promotes a more prosperous and inclusive scientific environment. It is essential to provide equal opportunities, support, and encouragement for women to enter and thrive in academic careers in the exact sciences, thus strengthening female representation in this field and boosting scientific excellence.

In this context, the BrJAC journal worked on organizing an issue dedicated to women researchers in the field of (bio)analytical chemistry. The central idea is to celebrate those female researchers who have worked hard and dedicatedly in analytical chemistry. The interview was with Dr. Joanna Szpunar from the National Research Council of France (CNRS). She talked about her career and experience as a prominent researcher in the spectroanalytical chemistry field. The point of view was with Dr. Maria Valnice Boldrin Zanoni from UNESP, who excels in electroanalytical chemistry and shares a new perspective on artificial photosynthesis technology. The Letter written by Dr. Quezia Cass from UFSCar presented us with text on separation techniques highlighting affinity selection mass spectrometry.

Cite: da Veiga, M. A. M. S.; Korn, M. G. A. Women in (Bio)Analytical Chemistry: *Moving Towards Equity and Inclusion*. *Braz. J. Anal. Chem.* 2023, *10* (40), pp 1-2. http://dx.doi.org/10.30744/brjac.2179-3425.editorial.women.chem.N40

The issue will also feature three reviews, eight articles, and three technical notes, all led by women in (bio)analytical chemistry. It is imperative to thank all the reviewers who participated in this process by giving their time and expertise in evaluating the manuscripts. Many thanks!

We hope you enjoy the reading and learn some of the work these researchers have been developing in (bio)analytical chemistry.

Márcia Andreia Mesquita Silva da Veiga is an Associate Professor in the Department of Chemistry at the Faculty of Philosophy, Sciences, and Letters of Ribeirão Preto, University of São Paulo, Brazil. She has a degree in chemistry (Federal University of Amazonas, 1991), a master's degree in physical chemistry, and a doctorate in analytical chemistry (Federal University of Santa Catarina, 1996 and 2000), with postdoctoral work in analytical chemistry at the Institute of Chemistry, University of São Paulo (2005). She currently leads the research group L.Q.A.I.A. (Laboratory of Applied Instrumentation and Analytical Chemistry) and is Vice President of the Brazilian Society of Forensic Sciences. She works mainly with optical techniques for trace and isotopic analysis. Her current research focus is on sample preparation procedures, the detection and quantification of nanomaterials and their application, bioaccessibility assays in foods and soils, the potential of high-resolution graphite furnace molecular absorption spectrometry for elemental and isotopic analysis, micro trace (evidence) analysis and detection for forensic purposes, and new technological approaches to chemistry teaching. CV

Maria das Graças Andrade Korn is a Full Professor at the Institute of Chemistry of the University of Bahia (UFBA), with a master's degree in chemistry (Inorganic Analytical Chemistry, 1987) from the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro and a doctorate in chemical sciences from the University of São Paulo (USP) (1997). She was Director of the Analytical Chemistry Division of the Brazilian Chemical Society (2014-2016) and is currently a full member of the Bahia Academy of Sciences. She is the author of more than 144 articles and has supervised 75 undergraduate students, 29 doctoral theses, 41 master's dissertations and 6 postdoctoral fellows. She has always worked in the area of analytical chemistry, developing studies related to the use of molecular and atomic spectroscopic techniques and sample preparation procedures, applied to different types of samples of food, environment, fuels, and medicines, among others. The main focus of her research has been to obtain reliable chemical information through the development of fast methods, with greater detectability, are ecologically friendly, and especially target more complex systems, in order to meet society's demand. CV