Guest Editorial

Is the twenty-first century the epoch of analytical science? And how will it contribute to the advancement of science and technology as a result? Can it contribute to the welfare of human beings and the preservation of the terrestrial environment? We hope that appropriate clues to answering these questions can be found in this special issue.

This issue entitled “Young Generation in Analytical Sciences” has been edited to present the perspectives of analytical chemistry and related fields, and to show the activities of young chemists, who are responsible for the future advancement of science. More than forty papers focusing on a variety of aspects are included in this issue. Very distinguished activities and potentials of the young analytical scientists presented here are noteworthy, and may allow the realization of new horizons in the field. Readers may find in this issue that there are two approaches by which analytical chemists can contribute to the further development of science and to bring about breakthroughs. One is to exploit novel analytical methods, concepts, and/or principles. The other is to utilize the existing analytical techniques in order to elucidate various topical issues involved in noticeable areas of science, e.g. biological, environmental, material science. We hope that these papers will provoke readers to find or advance their own ways, and to facilitate the efflorescence of analytical science in the new century.

In addition, the planning and steering committee of “The 21st Century Fund (Fund for Young Analytical Scientists)”, named the 21st Century Committee, of the Japan Society for Analytical Chemistry has cooperated with the editors of the journal to edit this special issue. This is the final work of the committee, which has been actively planning events and projects for activating young analytical scientists since 1992, and will now be dissolved and then refreshed in the early days of this new century.

We appreciate all of the authors who sent papers on their latest work and for their cooperative support of this special issue.

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