Editorial

Only ten years ago I was told, by a distinguished NMR specialist, that research on new NMR pulse sequences was exhausted, that there was nothing important to be discovered on that line of NMR. Despite his indiscussible knowledge and importance in the field of NMR, my friend was completely wrong (he is happy he was so). During those last ten years we have seen the birth and development of a profusion of new exciting and very useful NMR pulse sequences, especially those that use up simple phenomena to make powerful additions to the ever growing NMR tool box, like inverse detection techniques, magnetic field gradients, MQ-MAS, selective excitation, accordion techniques, etc. NMR is so adaptable and resourceful that new tools and applications appear almost on a daily schedule, making continuos reading absolutely necessary to keep up with what is going on in this area. As a result, nuclear magnetic resonance techniques and the research that make use of them are on the top of modern science. This fact is evident during our every day reading of the scientific articles of interest for each of us.

During all this time, NMR has become so powerful and resourceful that it is absolutely indispensable to conduct good quality research in several branches of science, like natural products chemistry, and very important for most of the others, especially those in chemistry and biochemistry. The recognition of the great importance of NMR and its contributions to science is also evidenced by the concession of two NMR-related Nobel Prices in the last eight years; Richard Ernst in 1994 and Kurt Wütrich in 2002. Prof. Ernst was the pioneer on the development of Fourier transform NMR, a methodology that triggered the explosion of NMR in the last three decades. Prof. Wütrich developed the techniques and protocols that are now extensively used for the determination of the structure of proteins and nucleic acids in solution, leading the way to structural proteomics and future developments on the understanding of processes in living organisms. There is much to be done yet and I certainly expect that the NMR community will keep on making important contributions to the future developments in science.

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Editor