Reaching for the top of the NMR World

In 1986 the Brazilian scientific community already had very good NMR specialists and several NMR spectrometers with electromagnets or permanent magnets. But that year was very special for the future of NMR in Brazil. At that time Sonia Cabral, from Petrobras, was importing the first superconductive NMR spectrometer that would function in this country. In fact the Núcleo de Pesquisas de Produtos Naturais (NPPN) from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro had imported a 200 MHz spectrometer before, but its magnet was damaged. At that time Sonia was looking for scientific partnerships to make sure that her 300 MHz spectrometer would produce all that it had the potential to do. She went to the Instituto Militar de Engenharia (IME) looking for Prof. Peter Seidl and myself since we were responsible for several graduate NMR courses at that institution. Also, at that time Peter already had a quite significant scientific contribution as NMR user and forming human resources in NMR. From that first conversation we decided that it would be a good idea to contact and aggregate all the NMR users in Rio de Janeiro in order to help each other and exchange ideas on NMR. That is how we started what it was called the "Informal NMR Users Group from Rio de Janeiro". Our first task at that time was to organize the First NMR Users Meeting, which took place at Hotel do Frade, Angra dos Reis, in 1987, having as invited speakers Prof. Robin Harris from UK and Dr. Steve Patt from Varian Associates. At that meeting we had the participation of most NMR users and specialists from Brazil, all of which were very interested in having a national NMR association. As a consequence of that meeting we officially founded the Associação de Usuários de Ressonância Magnética Nuclear (AUREMN) in august 1988. And that was only the beginning.

Today the Brazilian NMR community is quite strong and productive. However, I believe that the most important characteristic of our community is the solidarity, which is a natural result of the cooperative nature of the birth of AUREMN. Today we have more that 70 superconductive NMR spectrometer, including two at 600 MHz, distributed all over Brazil. We have organized 19 scientific meetings and more that 25 courses. Our official journal, *Annals of Magnetic Resonance*, was created in 2001 and we have already published two NMR books of the collection *Fundamentos e Aplicações da Ressonância Magnética Nuclear*, but we want to do much more. It took us 17 years to get here, but AUREMN will keep working to help us all to reach the top of the NMR World.

José Daniel Figueroa-Villar
Chief Editor of Annals of Magnetic Resonance