

Editorial

This is a special issue of Journal of Chemometrics dedicated to Professor Svante Wold. We are using his retirement from Umeå University as an opportunity to recognize and honor his decisive role in Chemometrics, his wisdom, his accomplishments and his friendship. Svante is one of the founders of the field of Chemometrics. Many Chemometricians have been inspired by his never-failing enthusiasm for Chemometrics, ranging from pure problem solving to teaching to enhancing algorithms.

In 1971 Professor Svante Wold coined the term 'kemometri' in Swedish and its equivalent in English 'Chemometrics' [1]. It is clear from his work that Svante always first defines the problem and then searches for a suitable solution to it. He has never approached science in the reverse order, that is by first developing a fancy algorithm and then looking around for some problem to apply it to. Very often Svante's problem solving approach has been based on his understanding of analytical and physical organic chemistry [2].

Svante played a key role in the early days of Chemometrics by disseminating its concepts by means of writing white papers, giving inspiring lectures at scientific meetings and by contributing to the birth of software for multivariate data analysis. Over the years, Svante has continued to have a strong impact on the development and proliferation of Chemometrics, not the least witnessed by his list of publications containing an impressive 400+ publications.

It goes without saying for anyone—even on the periphery of the Chemometrics field—that Svante is a highly respected Chemometrician both in academia and industry. This is also for his personality and humorous nature, of course, but also for his open-mindedness towards other approaches, and the ease with which he swiftly can understand new problems and propose workable solutions. At conferences, Svante is always surrounded by friends and colleagues, and thereby immediately involved in problem solving and advancement of chemometrics.

This special issue should be seen as a testimony of respect and admiration to an outstanding scientist, mentor and friend. The whole endeavor started with a small list of invitees who were asked to, and who consented to, contribute. There were only a few sad and deep regrets caused by busy schedules. Let us all join the contributors to this special issue in thanking Svante for his accomplishments in Chemometrics, for founding this field, for always showing us how to solve a problem optimally, for setting an example and for continuing in this lively field beyond his 'formal' retirement as Professor of Chemometrics. Chemometrics has

a prosperous future worldwide [3], much due to Svante Wold.



Svante Wold, who coined the term 'Chemometrics', and who continues with problem solving beyond his 'formal' retirement as professor of Chemometrics.

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