

## Reflections

“Learn while you are young lest you should be an old fool, for youth is such stuff as will not endure. Don’t make light of even a very short time. While you are appreciating spring flowers around a pond, leaves of a Chinese parasol in the garden begin to show signs of autumn stealthily” (ancient Chinese poem).

I began to conduct research into CHEMICS (Computer-aided Structure Elucidation) in 1967. When I first made a report of this work at the Pittsburgh Conference on Analytical Chemistry and Applied Spectroscopy in 1968, *C&ENews* reported it as one of its topics and my report was also published in *Analytical Chemistry*, **1968**, 40, 2220–2223 as a research paper. Moreover, I was honored to see the paper introduced in *Benchmark Papers in Analytical Chemistry* (Justice, J. B., Jr., Isenhour, T. L., Eds.; Hutchinson Ross Publishing Co.), **1969**, 3, 336. Although work appeared to proceed smoothly, the research was not as easy as I had initially thought. I was able to overcome many difficulties by relying on the help of my colleagues and today, my research has at last come to a stage of completion.

I have not spent much of my time appreciating spring flowers around a pond, but the progress of time has been so fast that the period of nearly 30 years has passed as if in the twinkling of an eye. Now, I am going to retire from the President of TUT, the Toyohashi University of Technology, my last activity, like a leaf of a Chinese parasol falling down.

I am more than a little proud that I have tackled research challenges which other persons did not try to conduct and have completed some of them, even if they were tiny, and that with this research as a momentum I may have worked as one of the pioneers exploiting the new discipline of computers in chemistry.

In the process of my research of computers in chemistry, I have had the honor to have become familiar with excellent researchers in the same discipline both in Japan, Europe, and the Americas, and I express my gratitude to them for the warm encouragement they extended to me.

I can never thank enough Dr. G. W. A. Milne, editor-in-chief of JCICS, who, in response to the request of one of my colleagues, Dr. K. Funatsu, has prepared this special issue of the journal for my 70th birthday. I also extend my heartfelt gratitude to those authors who contributed their valuable articles to this issue.

Finally, I would like to express appreciation to my wife Kotoji who, through all these years has supported my family and, at important moments, has given assistance to me in my research.

ササキシソイチ

Shin-ichi Sasaki

CI950177Q