

## 2009 New Year's Resolutions for Analytical Chemists

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Many of us now face the new year telling ourselves that we need to improve certain aspects of our lives, especially with regard to loved ones, overeating, not saving, and other forms of human behavior and vices. I'd like to suggest resolutions, in the professional vein, to various folks in our analytical chemistry community.

**The Industrial Manager.** I will strive to fulfill the current analytical chemistry needs of my company and prepare for its long-term needs by encouraging my staff to keep a professional eye on contemporary advances in chemical measurements and to consider how such advances might be used in the future.

**The Industrial Analytical Chemist.** I will work to fulfill the goals of my position in an exemplary manner, and I will strive to continue to learn as a professional. I will continue to take pride in providing analytical information that serves a chemical industry that has, more than any other, improved the quality of human life.

**The Analytical Chemistry Measurement Cop.** I will strive to be precise and accurate, to make little noise, to watch over the analytical community, and to be a little irreverent.

**The Professor.** I will strive to inspire my students to high ambitions by offering a truly modern course and laboratory, blowing dusty pages out of my lecture notes and refreshing them with new pages on current advances in analytical chemistry that will affect the future practice of chemistry.

**The Student.** I will respect the wisdom of my professors; study hard what they teach; and at the same time and with confidence in my own wisdom, I will strive to surpass my professors in the understanding of some selected aspect of analytical chemistry.

**The Believer that Analytical Chemists Can Measure Anything.** I will try to understand that, given some resources and some time, analytical chemists can indeed measure any-

thing, but not everything. I resolve to help decide what is important to measure.

**The Believer that Analytical Chemistry Is a Simple Science.** I will strive to overcome the vastness of my ignorance.

**The Reviewer.** I will always remember the importance of peer review to science and will not longer procrastinate.

**The Author.** I will strive to write shorter papers and to describe my research in an understandable manner. I will also submit my best work to *Analytical Chemistry*.

**The Believer that Analytical Chemistry Is Becoming Too Fundamental.** I will strive to understand what a future that yields no new concepts for my measurements will be like.

**The Believer that Analytical Chemistry Is Becoming Too Applied.** I will try to remember that society expects and relies on analytical chemists' measurements in ways it doesn't even understand, and that analytical chemists must lead the way to societally significant measurements and not be driven to them.

**The Editor.** I will strive to publish new information that is accurate and that provides analytical chemists with important new tools for chemical measurements, now and in the future. I will always remember that a journal is composed not of an editor and a publisher but of a community of authors, reviewers, and readers.

I hope that you all have a very good 2009!

