

INTERVIEW

Compilation of 30 Interviews with Senior Researchers published in the 10 years of BrJAC

In this special edition celebrating 10 years of BrJAC, a compilation of the interviews given during this period by renowned researchers is presented. This set of interviews provides the reader with a broad and diversified view of the evolution of analytical chemistry over the decades, both in Brazil and abroad. This compilation is also very enjoyable, as it brings back personal and curious memories of the interviewees. Enjoy reading!



Carol Collins

The first impression of Professor Collins is that of a person in love with Analytical Chemistry. And the last impression, too. Her academic and professional background – as wide as her passion – developed during 50 years of work in the United States, Belgium, Taiwan, the Philippines, and Indonesia. She settled in Brazil in 1974, the year she came to State University of Campinas to work in Radiochemistry. She became a Brazilian citizen and a full professor of Analytical Chemistry at Unicamp Chemical Institute, a position she held until her retirement. “Retired, but not inactive,” she hastens to say. Currently, she dedicates most of her time correcting and translating to English over 200 articles every year written by her Chemistry Institute colleagues, for publication in journals indexed abroad. During this interview she recalls a little of the history of Analytical Chemistry and talks about the future trends of this science.

[Access](#) this interview published in the BrJAC Vol 1 #0, 2010.



Elias Zagatto

A resume does not say everything about a person. This is the conclusion drawn by those who personally know Elias Zagatto, Professor at the Center for Nuclear Energy in Agriculture, University of São Paulo (CENA/USP) and Member of the Brazilian Academy of Sciences. After analyzing his resume it is normal that one would expect him to be a flashy guy, almost arrogant, supported by his brilliant academic career and many awards around the world. In practice, Zagatto is a simple guy who likes a good conversation and does not miss the opportunity to say that he doesn't know everything and still has much to learn from life and people. He received BrJAC for an interview about the changes towards a cleaner chemistry, the interaction between industry and university and the highlight of Brazil on the international scene, especially with regard to the pioneering application of flow injection analysis on a large scale basis.

[Access](#) this interview published in the BrJAC Vol 1 #1, 2010.



Glaucius Oliva

When it comes to scientific research, Brazil is still considered a “young country, with many challenges ahead”. Despite this, the outlook is positive in the opinion of the Professor Glaucius Oliva, President of the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico, CNPq), the most important federal Brazilian agency for research support. Prof. Oliva thinks that the country has progressed significantly, promoting a continuous growth in the generation of new knowledge and training qualified personnel for R, D&I. In an exclusive interview to BrJAC, Prof. Glaucius also spoke about the key challenges faced by the Brazilian Science, the underserved areas of science and what is needed to meet them, the criteria adopted by the CNPq for the evaluation of researchers, the contributions provided by the Laboratory of Protein Crystallography and Structural Biology, Institute of Physics of São Carlos University of São Paulo, among other issues.

[Access](#) this interview published in the BrJAC Vol 1 #2, 2010.



Ramon Barnes

The BrJAC invited Professor Ramon Barnes to tell us about our last conquests and what we, Brazilians, still should work on to foster analytical chemistry and spectrochemistry nationally. Prof. Barnes is an old friend of Brazil: he has been coming to our country for more than two decades to meet with Brazilian researchers, and thus, he speaks knowingly. The conversation ranged from a critical view of the analytical chemistry research in Brazil to the future steps we should take to broaden and strengthen the relationship with industry. His counsel is precious.

Barnes received a Ph.D. in analytical chemistry from the University of Illinois (1966), and he was a postdoctoral research fellow at Iowa State University (1968-1969). From 1969 to 2000 he taught analytical chemistry and maintained an international research program at the University of Massachusetts, where he is now Professor Emeritus. He has published more than 300 papers and edited four books.

[Access](#) this interview published in the BrJAC Vol 1 #3, 2011.



Marco Tadeu Grassi

Water and air pollution, destination and toxicity of wastes are today political problems that affect the whole world population in different degrees and with different complexities. This is one of the areas of study of Professor Marco Tadeu Grassi, from Federal University of Paraná, in southern Brazil. Professor Grassi is a Brazilian chemist dedicated to the field of Environmental Chemistry. Grassi has created and found infrastructure and financial support for laboratories in the field of Environmental Chemistry in Brazil. He has been researching in the field since the 90s, and has many ongoing research projects dealing with water, oil, instrumentation for chemical analysis, aquatic sediments, and pollutants in public water supply and in rivers and watersheds, plastic containers for water, bioavailability of heavy metals and many other themes. He talked to BrJAC about Environmental Chemistry in Brazil.

[Access](#) this interview published in the BrJAC Vol 1 #4, 2011.



Paschoal Senise

One of the most important teachers, researchers and analytical chemists of his generation, Professor Paschoal Senise built a long and solid academic career at the Institute of Chemistry at the University of São Paulo (IQ-USP). His career started back in 1935, when he and a small group of students formed the first class of Chemistry of the University. He was often consulted on academic matters, because of his deep knowledge of the system, its administrative structure and also because of his relevant role in Analytical Chemistry studies in Brazil. As an extremely dedicated teacher and researcher, Professor Senise has brought innovations and teaching techniques to USP and, in two different periods in the 1970s, he was director of the Institute as well. However, even when he was in this function, Professor Senise never stopped teaching. This was one of the last interviews given by Professor Paschoal Senise, who received the Journal at the Institute of Chemistry, USP, on March 30, 2011. He died on July 21, 2011 at the age of 93.

[Access](#) this interview published in the BrJAC Vol 1 #5, 2011.



Antonio Celso Spínola Costa

In a recent publication prepared by the co-workers and colleagues of Professor Antonio Celso Spínola Costa, from Federal University of Bahia, Brazil, as a tribute to him, all testimonials (and they were more than 20) are unanimous in referring to him as an extremely dedicated teacher and mentor. He is the “guru” for most chemists from Bahia, and for many in the whole country. The title of the publication is indeed “Example of a professor and scientist for his and for future generations”, and it shows that Spínola was always concerned about the education in Chemistry in the country, in the school and high school years to begin with. Such recognition, added to the many prizes and medals he won in his career, did not come by chance. It comes from hard work, intelligence, from leadership and from a deep love for teaching.

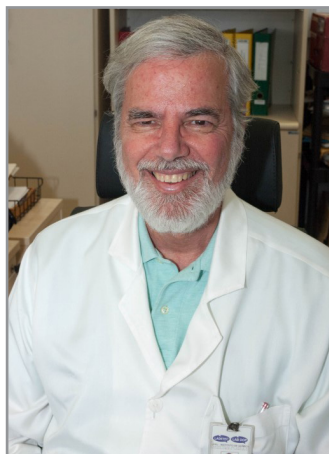
[Access](#) this interview published in the BrJAC Vol 1 #6, 2011.



Ivano Gutz

Prof. Gutz was only seventeen when he first started teaching. So interested he was in science, technology and in unravel the mechanisms of production, that even younger than all technicians and managers in the company, Ivano Gutz was invited by a large textile industry in Brazil to teach process technology to the new apprentices. At that time, a fruitful marriage between science and teaching began and, as we can see in this interview, only death will make them apart: after 35 years of a very intense professional life, with a nomination for the Brazilian Academy of Science, Prof. Gutz takes care of his health in order to keep teaching, researching and producing knowledge. This was one of the most difficult interviews to edit in this scientific journal, because the broad, and at the same time deep view of the work field that Prof. Gutz shows us was very hard to cut down to 10 pages: it is really a brilliant essay on the state-of-the-art of Brazilian Analytical Chemistry, both from the science and the professional perspectives.

[Access](#) this interview published in the BrJAC Vol 2 #7, 2012.



Francisco Radler

Prof. Radler coordinates nothing less than eight different laboratories at the *Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro*, ranging from technological support to chromatography, geochemistry, calibration and residue analysis. There, he has been doing research even before graduating, in undergraduate research programs. The broad scientific content in his research line is evident: the fields of knowledge range from the oil industry to the doping control in sports, from air quality to toxicology, from forensics to pharmacology. From this observation, one could assume that his contribution is shallow: on the contrary, Prof. Radler shows us, in this very interesting interview, his consistent view of the need of quality in analytical chemistry in Brazil, discussing the certification of laboratories, the experience of studying abroad and the teaching of chemistry in elementary school with a critical view.

[Access](#) this interview published in the BrJAC Vol 2 #8, 2012.



Roy Bruns

Prof. Bruns is an American chemist who came to Brazil in the 1970s to work as a researcher and professor in Universidade Estadual de Campinas (Unicamp), and became the pioneer in chemometrics in our country. In this exciting field of analytical chemistry, Prof. Bruns started at a time when computers were enormous structures occupying entire rooms, and when laboratory instruments did not have an interface with computers. However, in a typical Brazilian way, he was able to overcome difficulties with little resources, and started a highly productive career. Prof. Bruns talked with BrJAC about his studies, the history of chemometrics in Brazil, the development of the field since then and the newest mathematical tools, created in the last years. He also explained the role of analytical chemists in the development of research models in the future and shows that there is a large field to explore in analytical chemistry research.

[Access](#) this interview published in the BrJAC Vol 3 #9, 2012.



Ivano Gutz

In May 1983, a Brazilian Normative Act determined the market reserve for domestic companies, restricting the manufacture of information technology equipment, such as digital instrumentation for test and measurement, biomedical equipment and analytical instrumentation. Until the reopening of the market in 1991, Brazilian companies could thus operate with some freedom in the domestic market. This, however, also favored that companies producing outdated technology, of poor quality, high prices, poor service, lack of innovation could stay in the market. In this second interview for BrJAC, Prof. Gutz analyzes what this period represented for the analytical chemistry scientific and commercial contexts. This is a detailed narrative from someone who personally faced the problems of lack of infrastructure for research in the country and who found creative solutions to the development of a brilliant scientific and didactic career. He shows that the market closure brought both positive and negative consequences to the research and development activities.

[Access](#) this interview published in the BrJAC Vol 3 #10, 2012.



Orlando Fatibello

Prof. Fatibello talked to BrJAC about the history of electroanalytical chemistry in Brazil. It was a privilege to hear about this from him, because Prof. Fatibello is one of the pioneers in the area in Brazil. As the founder of the first analytical chemistry lab at the Federal University of São Carlos, he describes his field of work as a growing, promising research area.

With new ideas for investigation arising in happy hours with friends or during a shower, Prof. Fatibello is a tireless researcher who made a large contribution to the Brazilian rank of publications in analytical chemistry by publishing interesting papers on its development. Following this interview, the reader can get a very nice picture of the historical development of electroanalytical chemistry in Brazil, largely concentrated in São Paulo State but now spreading all over the country.

[Access](#) this interview published in the BrJAC Vol 3 #11, 2013.



Wilson Jardim

Prof. Jardim, from the University of Campinas, SP, Brazil, is one of the pioneer scientists that did not overlook the social and political role of chemists that are involved with environmental chemistry. He talked to BrJAC for one hour about the history of this field of investigation in Brazil, of which he is a very important representative. Prof. Jardim expressed his concerns about water, energy, sanitation, “green dogmas” and many other issues that are interesting for the experienced chemists and also those in the beginning of the career.

For the beginners, Prof. Jardim guarantees: “With a mosquito repellent, a sun blocker and a good idea, any responsible and ethic scientist can explore the outdoor laboratories available in Brazil: Rain Forest, Pantanal, Cerrado, Caatinga, and many other ecosystems in our country. Chemists can leave the traditional labs and build their own lab in the open field. There is a lot to study”.

[Access](#) this interview published in the BrJAC Vol 3 #12, 2014.



Joaquim Nóbrega

Prof. Joaquim Nóbrega gave a nice interview to the BrJAC. Among many subjects that were discussed, Prof. Joaquim talked about the Group for Applied Instrumental Analysis (GAIA) started in 1994 when Dr. Ana Rita Araujo Nogueira (Embrapa Pecuária Sudeste) and him started a Scientific and Technological Development Support Program (PADCT) with support from the “Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico” (CNPq). Prof. Joaquim explained that GAIA’s main motivation is to support students in performing research dedicated to solving demands for analytical applications and also improving the capability of modern instruments performing elemental analysis based on atomic absorption and emission processes, and mass spectrometry. Prof. Joaquim also talked about the GAIA Institute of Spectrometry, whose main goal is the development of human resources in the field of spectrochemical analysis and sample preparation.

[Access](#) this interview published in the BrJAC Vol 4 #13, 2016.



Marcos Eberlin

With a vivid personality, Prof. Eberlin motivates everyone with his positive energy and joy of living. The passion for chemistry came as a child, when a teacher showed him how fascinating chemistry can be. Since then, he has traced his way into the world of chemistry, specializing in mass spectrometry. Prof. Eberlin believes that analytical chemistry is the art of revealing in details the chemical composition of a sample. He continues: "In regard to mass spectrometry, analytical chemistry is the art of going to the molecular and atomic level and inspecting a sample with the 'hands' of a mass spectrometer. Analytical Chemistry is therefore a very exciting journey into revealing the molecular secrets of our Universe, from nature to all man-made products! For the freshman I would say: discover new ways to 'see' the ballet of molecules and atoms that compose the chemistry of our life and universe! Innovate! Try the craziest ideas! Make things as simple as possible in a way that brings analytical chemistry to all!"

[Access](#) this interview published in the BrJAC Vol 4 #14, 2017.



Celio Pasquini

Asked about the importance of scientific initiation programs in analytical chemistry, Prof. Pasquini replied: "Scientific initiation programs are the basis for the renewal of research and researchers in any area of science, including analytical chemistry. In Brazil there are already established actions that contribute to the scientific initiation to fulfill its role in the identification of new talents and to give continuity to the development and improvement of the quality of the national research. In my opinion, the earlier a student becomes aware of and engages in research activities, the better. It is better because they can contribute to the future of science by having their vocation awakened very early. However, if this doesn't happen, at least they will have the knowledge and insight to defend research and science, even if they don't follow a career in research. In the case of analytical chemistry, its intrinsic multidisciplinary character, and the scope of its direct action in problems related to the daily life of society, elects it as one of the most versatile areas to awaken vocations".

[Access](#) this interview published in the BrJAC Vol 4 #15, 2017.



Isabel Cristina Jardim

At a certain point in her career Prof. Isabel observed that the overuse of pesticides was becoming an imminent danger due to environmental contamination and thus food insecurity; there was an urgent need for efficient and rapid methods to detect, identify and quantify pesticides. Thus, she started a new line of research on the development and validation of chromatographic methods for the determination of pesticides in different types of environmental matrices. During the interview, Prof. Isabel stated: "Teaching provides me a complete realization, because my eagerness to transmit my knowledge is great and the satisfaction of seeing smiles on the faces of the students as they understand the subject being taught is immeasurable. I always put the mission of teaching in the foreground, so that good professionals could be formed and sent into the market. Research is challenging and when you achieve the goals outlined you enjoy happiness without limits".

[Access](#) this interview published in the BrJAC Vol 4 #16, 2017.



Fernando Lanças

Prof. Lanças, founded the Laboratory of Chromatography (CROMA) at the University of São Paulo in São Carlos, which acts in the development of new equipment and methodologies for the preparation of samples, separation and detection, especially Mass Spectrometry coupled with High Resolution Chromatographic Techniques. In addition, he is the founder of the Latin American Congress of Chromatography (COLACRO) and also the Brazilian Symposium on Chromatography (SIMCRO). In this interview Prof. Lanças stated: “A career in the field of chromatography is gratifying because it involves aspects of teaching, research and extension. As it is a technique eminently applied it can solve fundamental problems of Brazilian society. For those who want to ingress in this field, I suggest always seek to understand the principles behind the technique, as well as the fundamentals of the instrumentation involved, to become a chromatographer and not just an equipment operator”.

[Access](#) this interview published in the BrJAC Vol 4 #17, 2017.



Norberto Peporine Lopes

The research interests of Prof. Peporine are centered on natural product chemistry and mass spectrometry in both basic chemical aspects and their biological and ecological importance. He has dedicated himself to contributing to the understanding of the phase one metabolism of natural xenobiotics. His laboratory, therefore, has special interest in all aspects of the discovery of new natural products and has a strong track record for innovation. Five spins off were born from his group, with most of them being created by former postdoctoral researchers.

When asked to mention important achievements in the world of analytical research he replied: “I think that one of the greatest social impacts of current analytical chemistry is the doctorate of Dr. Lívia Eberlin with Prof. Cooks. Bringing the mass equipment into the surgical room in the hospitals will strongly impact the mass spectrometry field”.

[Access](#) this interview published in the BrJAC Vol 5 #18, 2018.



Mário César Ugulino de Araújo

Prof. Ugulino has been the coordinator of the Lab of Automation and Instrumentation in Analytical Chemistry and Chemometrics (LAQA) at the Federal University of Paraíba. The LAQA is a consolidated lab in the northeast region of Brazil, specializing in the areas of analytical instrumentation, automation of analytical processes, and chemometrics. When talking about the LAQA, Prof. Ugulino said: “Being the LAQA coordinator is a huge passion. It was extremely difficult to set up this lab due to financing issues in Paraíba. I stay at the LAQA for at least 10 hours every day, except when I am traveling, in meetings, in classes, or resting at weekends and on holidays. I am extremely passionate about my career as a professor and researcher in analytical chemistry. My advice for professionals from any area is: do everything in your professional life with passion and dedication. If you do not have passion for your profession, immediately seek another profession that will provide this. Doing things in life without passion can be very sad”.

[Access](#) this interview published in the BrJAC Vol 5 #19, 2018.



Nelson Stradiotto

Prof. Stradiotto, whose career has been marked by an effective contribution in the training of human resources for science, has also excelled in the development of research in Electrochemistry and Electroanalysis. The subject of his research is related to sensors, electrochemical detectors coupled to chromatographic techniques, and electroanalytical methods in the bioenergy area, with emphasis on biofuels, bioproducts, biomass, and bio-refineries. With his critical and balanced thinking, Prof. Stradiotto has assisted university institutions in finding solutions for technical and administrative issues, in the development of scientific knowledge, and in the training of human resources. As a result of the respect of his peers, he was nominated to coordinate the “Bioenergy Research Institute”, a project developed at UNESP jointly with UNICAMP and USP, as well as representing UNESP at the Institute of Studies Brazil Europe (IBE).

[Access](#) this interview published in the BrJAC Vol 5 #20, 2018.



Alice Aparecida Chasin

Prof. Alice Chasin has experience in toxicological analysis and toxicology education. When asked about the most important moments of her 30 years of dedication to the scientific research, Prof. Chasin said: “One of the most important was the moment of my decision to pursue academic life when I was working for 10 years at the Legal Medical Institute. The job I was doing fascinated me. Being able to speak for those people who have died (what happens in the post mortem analyzes) has always thrilled me and very early I was aware that without science, it is impossible to carry out this task with such responsibility. I understood that in academic life I could reconcile these two aspects of my work, and it happened. Another important moment was the invitation for me to teach toxicology classes at Universities. I am very pleased to have been able to make this link between academia and practice. However, without a doubt, my greatest achievement was to have participated in the training of professionals who are now professors and experts who carry out their work with ethics and competence. This is my pride!”

[Access](#) this interview published in the BrJAC Vol 5 #21, 2018.



José Luís C. Lima

Prof. Lima is an Emeritus Professor at the Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Porto, PT. With an extensive and prestigious academic career, Prof. Lima collaborated and continues to collaborate with many Brazilian research groups. About the career that a recent graduate can expect in the field of analytical chemistry, Prof. Lima said: “The speed of technological evolution recommends moderation in the predictions that can be made regarding any activity. I would stress, however, that given the nature and areas of intervention of analytical chemistry, it will always need specialists who respond to society’s growing concerns in areas such as food safety and environmental control, as well as public health. Such a scenario assures newcomers good perspectives and a lot of work, whether they face their future activity in teaching, research or control, or whether they work in public or private entities”.

[Access](#) this interview published in the BrJAC Vol 6 #22, 2019.



Luiz Alberto Colnago

Since 1986, Dr. Colnago has been a prominent researcher at the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (Embrapa). He is a specialist in *in vivo* or *in vitro* Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) applied to biological systems and in the development of NMR instrumentation for analysis of chemicals, food, fuels and other products. Early in his career, Dr. Colnago developed a low field NMR spectrometer for non-destructive determination of the oil content in corn seeds. In recent years, Dr. Colnago and his team have proposed the use of low field NMR using permanent magnets to investigate adulterations in fresh and processed foods, biofuels and biomaterials, and to monitor electrochemical reactions *in situ*, among other applications. The researcher's dream is that one day these NMR devices can be in supermarkets so that consumers can assess the quality of the products they are buying.

[Access](#) this interview published in the BrJAC Vol 6 #23, 2019.



Fabio Augusto

Prof. Fabio Augusto, a pioneer researcher in Brazil in the development of modern analytical separation techniques works in two major areas: development of systems and methodologies in GC×GC for applications in petroleomics, food analysis and microbiological metabolomics, and microextraction techniques for chromatographic analysis. For young scientists who want to pursue a career in Chromatography, Prof. Fabio Augusto says: "One should always keep in mind that analytical chemistry is essentially an applied science. Anyone wishing to make a significant contribution to the development of chromatography must be aware of the demands of industry, academia, and society. To know where the relevant problems lie, we should always listen and interact with professionals in fields such as medicine, agronomy, food science, and environmental science, even though, in many cases, this is a naturally difficult dialogue".

[Access](#) this interview published in the BrJAC Vol 6 #24, 2019.



Matthieu Tubino

In 1970, Prof. Tubino and three colleagues were invited to work at the then-beginning Institute of Chemistry of the University of Campinas. Shortly after the invitation, the four newly formed chemists went to the city of Campinas, SP, to visit the campus of that university. Of this trip, Prof. Tubino remembers: "I can say that this campus was a vast cane field, no longer cultivated, but some sugarcane clumps were still there. There was only the building of the university rectory and two more sheds. In one of the sheds, the Institute of Chemistry was located, along with other institutes and colleges. The building of the Institute of Chemistry was still under construction, and its occupation began in 1971. Given the conditions at that time, two of my colleagues gave up, but one colleague and I agreed to stay. Those were hard years, both in terms of working conditions, as everything had to be done, and in political terms because the political regime in Brazil was dictatorial and no one felt safe, even those who had no involvement with politics".

[Access](#) this interview published in the BrJAC Vol 6 #25, 2019.



Ronei Poppi

When asked about what has changed in the student profile since the beginning of his career, Prof. Ronei said: “Classes need to be more dynamic and with greater student participation. We need to teach students how to think chemically (or analytically) and not simply show how to push buttons on a device, because the robots will push the buttons in the near future. I can mention an interesting fact in a laboratory class, where it was necessary to know the molar mass of a given compound to prepare a solution. A student took out his smartphone and simply asked the molar mass, which was promptly provided. This exemplifies the fact that much information is readily available and may no longer need to be memorized. The worst is that even today there are professors who prohibit the use of smart phones in class”.

This interview was given in March 2020 and regrettably Prof. Ronei Poppi passed away on April 25, 2020.

[Access](#) this interview published in the BrJAC Vol 7 #26, 2020.



Jose Manuel Riveros Nigra

Prof. Riveros is an Emeritus Professor at the Institute of Chemistry of the University of São Paulo (IQ-USP). Internationally known for his important contributions to the field of gas phase ion-molecule reactions using a combination of mass spectrometric techniques and electronic structure calculations, Prof. Riveros continues to contribute to the IQ-USP as a Senior Professor. Recalling the beginning of his studies, Prof. Rivero said: “In 1962, I was admitted as a graduate student at Harvard University with a full scholarship. There, I undertook my Ph.D. thesis on molecular structure studies by microwave spectroscopy under the supervision of Prof. Bright Wilson. My experience at Harvard, from 1962 to 1966, was very stimulating because of the opportunity to interact with some of the great names in Chemistry and Physics. I also had the great pleasure of sharing an apartment in Cambridge, MA, USA, with two other graduate students and great friends, one of whom, Tom Steitz, would earn the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2009”.

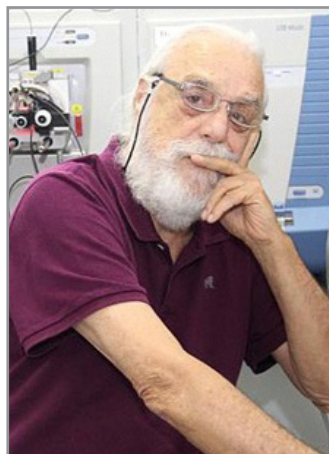
[Access](#) this interview published in the BrJAC Vol 7 #27, 2020.



Érico Flores

Asked about the recent advances and challenges of Analytical Chemistry in Brazil, Prof. Érico replied: “Currently, Analytical Chemistry is one of the most vigorous fields of chemistry in our country and has researchers of great international recognition. There have been substantial advances in all areas of Analytical Chemistry, largely due to advances in microelectronics and new materials with properties that allow the construction of detectors, reactors, instruments, etc., with many advantages over the instruments produced a few years ago. Despite all these advances, one of the biggest challenges for scientific research in Brazil is to transform the knowledge generated into applications that impact the daily lives of different sectors of society, from the economy to social and environmental well-being. For this, we will have to advance even more in the popularization of science, with...”.

[Access](#) this interview published in the BrJAC Vol 7 #28, 2020.



Gilberto Domont

Prof. Domont heads the Proteomics Unit of the Institute of Chemistry at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. Talking about what motivated him to become a proteomist, Prof. Domont remembered: “I was trained and did classical protein chemistry until 1989/1990 when I spent the winter months working on modern protein sequencing techniques at the Yale School of Medicine. Fred Richards and William Konigsberg, as well as John Fenn were also there. By memory, I recall Fred and Bill chatting in the large school corridor on Fenn’s mass spectrometry electron spray experiments. The discussion was about the consequences of Fenn’s electrospray technique to scientific research. No one had any idea where it would lead or what could happen with the science that was done at the time, but everyone was sure that it would revolutionize research in the health sciences. I found the electrospray technique to be my calling. Years after, dinning a hot soup in the relaxing hotel restaurant after the promenade of the II ESPRIT and I EuPA Congress, Valencia, Spain, 2007, I told John how I was hooked by his ESI at Yale.

[Access](#) this interview published in the BrJAC Vol 7 #29, 2020.