Brazilian Journal of Analytical Chemistry
2026, Volume 13, Issue 51, pp 3-5
doi: 10.30744/brjac.2179-3425.interview.N51

BrJAC

INTERVIEW

Professor Eduardo Dellacassa kindly granted an interview to BrJAC

Professor Eduardo Santiago Dellacassa Beltrame is widely recognized in Latin America for his contributions to phytochemistry, pharmacognosy, natural products chemistry, enology, and the study of aromatic and medicinal plants. His career is marked by strong international engagement, scientific leadership, and a consistent commitment to research, teaching, and technological development.

Throughout his academic career, Dellacassa received several prestigious international fellowships, including a scholarship from the Italian Government (IILA–Universidad de la República, 1989), a Research Grant from the Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), and multiple research stays at leading European institutions. He carried out scientific training and specialization programs in Italy, Spain, France, England, and Mexico, with notable periods at the Università degli Studi di Messina, the University of Barcelona, Rothamsted Experimental Station (UK), the Istituto Agrario di San Michele all'Adige, INRA Pech Rouge, and the Centro de Investigación y Asistencia en Tecnología y Diseño del Estado de Jalisco. These experiences helped shape a highly international and multidisciplinary academic profile.

Dellacassa is an active member of numerous scientific societies, including the Latin American Society of Phytochemistry, the American Chemical Society (ACS), the International Society for Horticultural Sciences, the Spanish Society of Phytotherapy (SEFIT), the Royal Spanish Society of Chemistry, and several national associations related to chemistry, food science, horticulture, natural products, and essential oils. His broad institutional engagement reflects his sustained contributions to scientific development across the region.

Professionally, he has served as a technical director for additives companies and for pharmacies, and has professional experience in the pharmaceutical sector, particularly in analytical control, production planning, and product development. This industrial background complements his strong academic foundation, enabling him to bridge fundamental science with practical applications.

Within the Universidad de la República (UdelaR), Uruguay, Dellacassa developed extensive teaching and academic activity over more than a decade. He has taken part in numerous Academic Merit Committees, evaluation boards, and selection processes in areas such as Pharmacognosy and Natural Products, Organic Chemistry, Pharmaceutical Chemistry, Enology, Food Science and Technology, and Mass Spectrometry. Over the years, he held positions as Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, and Senior Professor, and contributed to funded research projects supported by agencies such as CSIC, INIA, and PDT. His academic contributions span topics from natural product chemistry and sensory analysis of foods to phytochemical characterization and enological science.

With a career defined by academic excellence, international collaboration, and a commitment to scientific training, Eduardo Santiago Dellacassa Beltrame stands as a leading figure in the field of

Cite: Beltrame, E. S. D. Professor Eduardo Dellacassa kindly granted an interview to BrJAC**.** *Braz. J. Anal. Chem.* 2026, *13* (51), pp 3-5. http://dx.doi.org/10.30744/brjac.2179-3425.interview.N51

This Interview is part of the BrJAC Special Issue on the 8th Uruguayan Congress of Analytical Chemistry (CUQA 8 2024).

natural products, aromatics, medicinal plants, and analytical applications in food and pharmaceutical sciences. His trajectory represents a distinctive combination of scientific rigor, technical expertise, and long-standing contributions to the development of chemistry and natural sciences in Latin America.

BrJAC: How was your childhood?

Prof. Dellacassa: I spent my childhood in a low-income rural area where immigrant tradition dictated that my destiny was to work the land.

BrJAC: What early influences encouraged you to study chemistry? Did you have any influencers, such as a teacher?

Prof. Dellacassa: The benchmark for continuing my studies was always to have the option of other choices for my future. Curiously, my interest in studying never involved any aspiration for social advancement. The greatest influence on my decision about what to study—which was not easy—was a secondary school chemistry teacher who will always remain in my memory.

BrJAC: How was the beginning of your career in chemistry?

Prof. Dellacassa: The beginning of our time at university was difficult for my entire generation, as the university was under intervention and there were very limited opportunitiesfor decision-making. Personally, my salvation came from older generations who took me under their wing and helped me realize that university education encompasses far more than attending classes and taking examinations.

BrJAC: What has changed in your profile, ambitions, and performance since the time you started your career?

Prof. Dellacassa: My change in perspective since I began my research activities has been complete: I can no longer conceive of university education without considering the possibility that our students may develop the critical and human capacities to become our equals.

BrJAC: Could you comment briefly on the recent evolution of analytical chemistry, considering your contributions?

Prof. Dellacassa: In my opinion, analytical chemistry is undergoing a period of qualitative growth. Where stricter training in analytics inevitably leads to more sophisticated analytical instruments, we are not yet fully capable of interpreting results with the rigor that analytics, by definition, provides.
I wonder if we should not begin the journey of evolutionary analytics: as an open, flexible concept with multiple applications.

BrJAC: What are your lines of research? You have published many scientific papers. Would you highlight any?

Prof. Dellacassa: I am pleased to say that my current vocation is volatile and non-volatile metabolomics, mediated by the facilities offered by chromatography as a separation method and mass spectrometry as a means of interpreting the processes under evaluation.

BrJAC: What is your opinion about the current progress of chemistry research in word? What are the recent advances and challenges in scientific research?

Prof. Dellacassa: Technological and instrumental development is advancing so fast that it is very difficult for researchers to keep pace with it, and even more difficult to apply it without having to change their objectives to suit current trends. On the other hand, the rising cost of instrumentation is beginning to increasingly

discriminate between those who have access to these tools and those who do not. This situation may have a positive aspect if it leads to greater intergroup collaboration, even when such collaboration is not necessarily focused on the same research topics.

BrJAC: For you, what have been the most important recent achievements in analytical chemistry research? What are the landmarks?

Prof. Dellacassa: In my opinion, there is no doubt that advances in sample preparation systems are the most significant development currently taking place. If we add to this the increase in sensitivity and reproducibility of analytical tools, the situation is very close to what we all want, which is the application of more powerful and accessible statistical tools to respond to the problems we face.

BrJAC: There are, in Brazil and in the world, several conferences on chemistry. To you, how important are these meetings to the chemistry scientific community?

Prof. Dellacassa: Brazil truly represents a universe of meetings, seminars, courses, and congresses. The importance of these opportunities for staying up to date, establishing contacts, and receiving constructive criticism of our work is unparalleled in Latin America.

BrJAC: What is the importance of awards for the development of science and new technologies?

Prof. Dellacassa: Basic: it is a human necessity to receive minimal recognition for work well done and results well presented.

BrJAC: What advice would you give to a young scientist who wants to pursue a career in chemistry?

"...In my opinion, chemistry has ceased to be a discipline and has become a tool for communication among different disciplines. From this point of view, I believe that ..."

Prof. Dellacassa: In my opinion, chemistry has ceased to be a discipline and has become a tool for communication among different disciplines. From this point of view, I believe that the different options offered by chemistry education provide unique opportunities for understanding, communication, and collaboration with other areas of scientific knowledge and their applications.

BrJAC: For what would you like to be remembered?

Prof. Dellacassa: I would like to be remembered as someone who, having tried to achieve all the goals that an academic education aims for, continues to work to generate collaborations that allow us to overcome the individualism that is a hallmark of academic life.