EDITORIAL

During 2009, and especially on November 11-15, the Facultad de Ciencias Químicas, Universidad de Concepción, celebrated its 50 Anniversary. The origin of our Faculty is the foundation of the Instituto Central de Química at 1959, during the period of the Rector David Stichkin. The first Director was Prof. Juan Perelló Puig. Subsequently, Professors Orlando Pavez, Pablo Dobud, Juan Bartulin, Germán Acuña, Moisés Silva, Sergio Quadri, and Bernabé L. Rivas have been Directors or Deans.

During 1980 the Instituto Central de Química was changed, giving place to the Facultad de Ciencias and then during 1993 the current Facultad de Ciencias Químicas was created, formed by 5 Departments, Department of Analytical and Inorganic Chemistry, Department of Organic Chemistry, Department of Physicochemistry, Department of Polymers, and Department of Earth Sciences. There are three careers, Licenciado en Química-Químico, Químico Analista, and Geología and also three graduate programs, Doctor in Ciencias c/m Química which is the oldest program of the Universidad de Concepción, Magister en Ciencias c/m Química, and Doctor in Ciencias Geológicas. The academic and non-academic staff are formed by 122 persons. All the academics have a full time contract, and 85% possess a master or doctor degree.

For the first time our Faculty has developed the teaching and research activities at an excellent level contributing to the regional and national development.

Normally, the academics are teaching more than 30 careers for 8000 undergraduate students/year. The Graduate programs have about 30 students/year, a 20-25% come from other countries. The Doctor Program en Ciencias c/m Química has formed above 90 young scientists.

The research is developed with the important financial support coming from different international and national agencies or programs, contributing to the high level human resources formation, patents, and papers.

Our faculty has also contributed significantly to the development of the chemistry and has been strongly related with the Sociedad Chilena de Química, SChQ, contributing from different points of views and serving several charges. Thus, an important number of members of SChQ are academics of our faculty, as well as the Presidents: Professors Otto Weinnert, José Baabor, Mario Suwalsky, Bernabé L. Rivas, J. Guillermo Contreras, Galo Cárdenas, and Patricio Reyes.

On behalf of all the personnel of our Faculty, I thank very much to the Sociedad Chilena de Química to dedicate a special issue to our 50 Anniversary.

Dr. Bernabé L. Rivas Q.
Dean
Facultad de Ciencias Químicas
Universidad de Concepción