

## Preface

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In April 1870, Baron József Eötvös, Minister of Religion and Public Education, presented the plan for the reorganization of the József Polytechnic. As a result, two years later, the university was already operating with five departments: engineering, architecture, mechanical engineering, chemistry, and universal departments. The department was headed by the dean. The first dean of the chemistry department was János Kriesch, the head of the Department of Zoology. The system of prerequisites for the subjects was already formed at that time. Part of the overall picture is that the teaching of chemistry goes back to the legal predecessor of the University of Technology. The Department of Chemistry at József Polytechnic began operating on October 24, 1847, under the leadership of doctor Károly Nendtvich. However, this did not yet mean chemical training, the "technology" and "economic" classes received 5 hours a week of "general and technological chemistry" education. All beginnings are difficult! From the academic year 1872/1873 to 1884, only 3 chemical diplomas were awarded, and until 1898 only 33. What could be the reason for this? The Hungarian chemical industry was not developed enough. In 1870, the country had only one chemical company employing 500 people, the rest were small factories. The chemical industry and the Faculty of Chemistry of the University began to develop in parallel at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Crude oil refining began, the agricultural chemical industry continued to grow, rubber production began at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The Hungarian pharmaceutical industry also began to develop. In 1901, Gedeon Richter founded his pharmaceutical company. This year, the University of Technology also won the right to award the doctorate, which was its old goal.

The University of Technology awarded degrees in chemistry until 1907, only then did it change to the name chemical engineering.

The current organizational structure of the faculty was created during the 2007 restructuring. The five departments (Department of Applied Biotechnology and Food Science, Department of Physical Chemistry and Materials Science, Department of Chemical and Environmental Process Engineering, Department of Organic Chemistry and Technology, Department of Inorganic and Analytical Chemistry) and 2 of the two faculty research laboratories (Pharmatech Model Laboratory, Biotechnology Model Laboratory). With its doctoral school named after its former Nobel prize-winning student and colleague György Oláh, it strives to provide excellent professionals to Hungarian industry. After all, we have a common interest with the industry to train professionals with modern chemical industry and biotechnology knowledge and an innovative approach for the Hungarian chemical industry. This can only be achieved through close cooperation between industry and the university. It is no coincidence that we are currently reviewing our training. In the renewal of the curriculum, we naturally involve representatives of the industry in addition to our students and the academic staff. Our goal is constant renewal, compliance with the latest trends in both research, development, and education.

This special issue also reflects the diversity of our faculty's research portfolio. I wish you to enjoy high-quality scientific papers!

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