**DESCRIPTION**

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Manuscripts detailing fundamental research on all aspects of analytical chemistry theory and methodology (including chemical techniques), such as innovative instrumental, chemical and biological approaches, detectors and sensors, sample treatment methods and data treatment that truly demonstrate new principles and/or important applications are especially encouraged. *Analytica Chimica Acta* focuses on fundamental new developments in analytical chemistry in general and discourages specialized application oriented submissions that are of interest to a limited number of readers. Papers describing the direct use of routine *analytical methodologies* or their straightforward/incremental extension of these methods to new sample matrices will normally be rejected unless new and important developments are described which can be demonstrated to give obvious and quantifiable advantages over existing approaches. In all submissions to the journal, authors must address the question of how their proposed methodology compares with those previously reported for the analytes in question even if they employed different techniques. The journal does not focus on application papers, especially those that are straightforward utilizations of commercial instrumentation or other existing techniques, regardless of how complex and expensive they may be. If submitted, application papers must clearly demonstrate a high level of general importance and interest to the analytical chemistry community at large.

It will normally be expected that where new analytical methodologies and developments are described these will be applied to a sample matrix of suitable analytical complexity. In such cases appropriate validation of the method must be provided, together with proper statistical treatment of data. Analytical performance characteristics of new methodologies must be given, including calibration, sensitivity, detection limits, accuracy, precision, and interferences. They must also clearly demonstrate substantial superiority in some important respect over existing alternatives.

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INTRODUCTION

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*Analytica Chimica Acta* provides a forum for the rapid publication of original research, and critical, comprehensive reviews dealing with all aspects of fundamental and applied modern analytical chemistry. The journal welcomes the submission of research papers which report studies concerning the development of new and significant analytical methodologies. In determining the suitability of submitted articles for publication, particular scrutiny will be placed on the degree of novelty and significance of the research and the extent to which it adds to existing knowledge in analytical chemistry.

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