



## Editorial

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*Dear Colleagues,*

I am writing this editorial on the 14th day of *Putin's* war on Ukraine. In normal times, I would announce the first issue of the Journal of Planar Chromatography (JPC) in 2022 with ten original research papers on high-performance thin layer chromatography (HPTLC), five from phytochemistry and five from synthetic drug analysis. But we are not living in normal times. The war against Ukraine is a turning point in history, and I feel it personally. I became an environmental scientist in the 1990s because I feared the destruction of the environment. At a time when electricity generation was and is associated with huge CO<sub>2</sub> emission, one of my hopes in HPTLC was to save electricity by replacing high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) methods. Thinking in this framework, any war is frankly nonsense, because war only destroys and thus accelerates global warming. With global warming, we are facing a catastrophe that threatens life on earth and may even bring humanity to extinction. It is clear to me that we must all work together to save the earth from this doom, from this war against nature, so that we can give our children what my generation appreciated: enduring peace.

I hope the war against Ukraine will end soon, but the reconstruction of the destroyed Ukrainian cities will release enormous amounts of CO<sub>2</sub>. Dependency on fossil fuels breeds and virtually sustains autocratic systems. Therefore, reducing fossil fuel consumption helps strengthen democracy and also freedom of the press. A free press is the antidote to dictators. I know that even the smallest act of defiance takes a lot of courage in today's Russia, but on February 25, the day after *Putin's* war against Ukraine began, more than 4000 Russian scientists and journalists signed an open letter against this war (<https://science.thewire.in/>

[the-sciences/4750-russian-scientists-science-journalists-sign-open-letter-against-ukraine-war/](https://science.thewire.in/the-sciences/4750-russian-scientists-science-journalists-sign-open-letter-against-ukraine-war/)). They wrote: “There is no rational justification for this war. Obviously, Ukraine poses no threat to the security of Russia. The attempts to use the situation in Donbass as a pretext for launching a military operation are totally contrived. The war against Ukraine is unjust and frankly nonsense. (...) Having unleashed the war, Russia has doomed itself to international isolation. It has devolved into a pariah country. This means that we, Russian scientists and journalists, will no longer be able to do our job in a normal way because conducting scientific research is unthinkable without cooperation and trust with colleagues from other countries. (...) We demand an immediate halt to all military operations directed against Ukraine. We demand respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Ukrainian state. We demand peace for our countries.”

This statement is one of the few things that gives me strength in these days. We should finally accept that the time for finding “solutions” through war is over. We have bigger problems than problems that can be solved through negotiations. *Dennis Meadows*, author of the book “Limits to Growth,” which was published exactly 50 years ago, once wrote: “The term sustainable development is wrong. It should be survivable development.” We should finally realize the truth of these sentences. In such dark times, scientists, and I mean: all scientists, should stand together against war and inhumanity.

I join the open letter of my Russian colleagues and appeal to you:  
“Let's make science, not war!”

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