EDITORIAL

SLOPPINESS

This issue of MATCH COMMUNICATIONS IN MATHEMATICAL AND IN COM-PUTER CHEMISTRY contains a remarkable number of papers in which errors in some earlier published articles are exposed and corrected:

- 1. Li and Tu [1] correct a paper by Behmaram et al., published in *Applied Mathematics Letters* in 2012.
- 2. Both Chen and Zhang [2] and Wu et al. [3] point out errors in a paper by Heydari, published in Vol. **69** of our journal.
- 3. Yang [4] exposes an error in a paper by Xu and Hua, published in Vol. 68 of our journal.
- 4. In addition, in another recent work [5], errors are discovered in a paper by Dong and Guo, published in Vol. **63** of our journal.

Too many errors in a short time !!!

In my opinion, the cause of such a shameful situation is threefold.

First of all, authors rush to publish their papers, with little or no care if their results are correct and original, not to mention scientific significance. Nowadays, the career, income, job, of scholars and "scholars" depend on the number of their published papers, especially on those in journals with impact factor. The scientific value of these papers is hardly ever an issue.

Second, the existence of numerous erroneous papers in journals in which refereeing is obligatory (as it is the case at MATCH COMMUNICATIONS IN MATHEMATICAL AND IN COMPUTER CHEMISTRY), reveals a careless and incompetent refereeing. Colleagues asked to act as referees, often get rid of this chore (anonymous and unpaid anyway) as fast as they can, sometimes without even reading the paper they recommend for publication. Third, the editors of journals are responsible for selecting appropriate referees, and for deciding if their reports are trustworthy or not. They too share guilt for the proliferation of errors in papers in the area of MATHEMATICAL CHEMISTRY.

* * * * *

A Latin proverb says

Errare humanum est

(To err is human)

which sounds as a good excuse for both authors, referees, and editors. However, this proverb has a continuation:

perseverare autem diabolicum.

(but to persist is diabolic.)

Are we ready to end, or at least to reduce, this malpractice?

Ivan Gutman

References

- Y. Li, J. Tu, On the number of paths, independent sets, and matchings of low Order in (5,6)-fullerene graphs, *MATCH Commun. Math. Comput. Chem.* 70 (2013) 513-524, this issue.
- [2] Y. H. Chen, X. D. Zhang, On Wiener and terminal Wiener indices of trees, MATCH Commun. Math. Comput. Chem. 70 (2013) 591-602, this issue.
- [3] Y. Wu, F. Wei, B. Liu, Z. Jia, The generalized (terminal) Wiener polarity index of generalized Bethe trees and coalescence of rooted trees, *MATCH Commun. Math. Comput. Chem.* **70** (2013) 603-620, this issue.
- [4] J. Yang, Comments on "A unified approach to extremal multiplicative Zagreb indices for trees, unicyclic and bicyclic graphs", MATCH Commun. Math. Comput. Chem. 70 (2013) 717-718, this issue.
- [5] M. Aouchiche, G. Caporossi, P. Hansen, Refutations, results and conjectures about the Balaban index, *Les Cahiers du GERAD* G-2013-24 (2013) II+1-11.