**4 December 2017**

**Professor Branislav Ž. Nikolić**

**Editor-in-Chief of Journal of the Serbian Chemical Society**

**Dear Professor Nikolić,**

In the attached file please find the manuscript entitled **“Characterization of mass transfer properties of a high specific area random type packing in a narrow packed column”** to be considered for publication in the **Journal of the Serbian Chemical Society**. I confirm that the work being submitted is original and is not being submitted elsewhere for publication.

In the following I elucidate some important key points in regard to the significance and novelty of this manuscript and the main variations in terms of the selected method, operating conditions, raw material and the obtained experimental results in contrast to similar studies.

Large amounts of light stable isotopes are used in for example industrial processes, medical tests, hydrology and geology. Although different methods can be used for separation of these isotopes but regarding large separation factors, comparatively large processing flow rate even with compact scale devices and relatively small power consumption, cryogenic distillation is the most common method being used. On the other hand isotope separation by cryogenic distillation is commonly operated in small diameter columns. One must characterize the selected packing if they wish to design, operate or scale up a distillation column. To eliminate operational problems, packing characterization is commonly done in columns not smaller than about 20 cm. Although many researches are reported in this field but no remarkable job is done on characterization of a packing in a small diameter column. The main objective of this paper is to characterize a Dixon ring packing using a small diameter column. Pressure drop behavior of the packing is extensively studied and also mass transfer properties of the packing are pervasively investigated. The results obtained from pressure drop tests were used to plot the Generalized Pressure Drop Chart and the results of mass transfer experiments were used to estimate the Height Equivalent to a Theoretical Plate.

This is also to emphasize that this paper has not been published previously, that it is not under consideration for publication elsewhere, that its publication is approved by all authors and tacitly or explicitly by the responsible authorities where the work was carried out, and that, if accepted, it will not be published elsewhere in the same form, in English or in any other language, including electronically without the written consent of the copyright-holder. The manuscript was carefully checked to avoid any language errors. It is believed that the language is acceptable for the review process.

The following are suggested as potential reviewers:

(1) Yeo Sang-Do

Address: Department of Chemical Engineering, Kyungpook National University, Daegu 702-701, South Korea

E-mail Address: [syeo@knu.ac.kr](mailto:syeo@knu.ac.kr)

(2) Tatiana Klimova

Address: Departmento de Ingenieria Quimica, Facultad de Quimica, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico Cd, Universitaria, Mexico D. F. 04510, Mexico.

E-mail Address: [klimova@servidor.unam.mx](mailto:klimova@servidor.unam.mx)

(3) Jose Luis Guil-Guerrero

Address: Area de Tecnologia de Alimentos, Departamento de Ingenieria Quimica, Universidad de Almeria, 04120 Almeria, Spain

E-mail Address: [jlguil@ual.es](mailto:jlguil@ual.es)

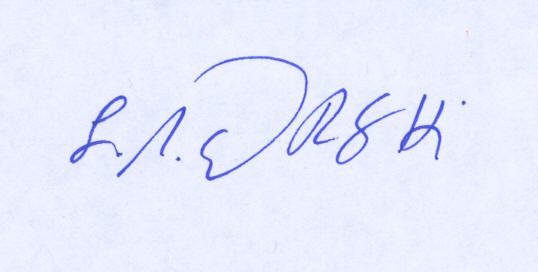
(4) Can Erkey

Dept. of Chemical & Biological Eng., Koc University, Istanbul, Turkey

E-mail Address: [cerkey@ku.edu.tr](mailto:cerkey@ku.edu.tr)

Could you please let me know the outcome of the review process.

Best Regards,



Seyyed M. Ghoreishi

Professor

Department of Chemical Engineering

Head of Supercritical Fluid Research Institute

Isfahan University of Technology

Isfahan 84156-83111, IRAN

Phone: (+98-31) 33915604

Fax: (+98-31) 33912677

E-mail: ghoreshi@cc.iut.ac.ir