A method was described for preparing gas chromatographic glass capillary columns coated with silicone stationary phases. The most demanding step concerns pretreatment of the internal capillary wall in order to obtain thorough deactivation. The described procedure involves intensive washing of the glass surface (20 percent HCl, 105 °C overnight), rinsing, dehydration, and silylation at very high temperature (400 °C). The other key point concerned leaching of the final success (it was finally increased to more than 50 columns were terrible, without any sign of hope. I remember joking in those days about "another day of awful columns?" Of course, there was some competition between father and son, with a score not far from 1:1; but, this time I clearly lost.

In 1976, T. Welsch reported excellent deactivation of glass capillaries, applying silylation at 300 °C. This temperature was generally considered crazy, but the high temperature was one of the two prerequisites for the final success (it was finally increased to 400 °C). The other key point concerned leaching of the glass surface: Only intensive treatment with acid produced the silanol groups that allowed efficient silylation. The final success was spectacular: Inertness was far better than anything produced before, and the upper temperature limit was increased from some 250 °C to beyond 350 °C, opening the way for procedures such as gas chromatographic (GC) analysis of triglycerides and to some 250 °C to beyond 350 °C, opening the way for procedures such as gas chromatographic (GC) analysis of triglycerides and to what is today called "high temperature GC."

The method was published including all the little tricks, and it made a black art into something accessible to all. In fact, the method was rapidly adopted by most who prepared glass capillary columns and, with some modifications (e.g., by Blum), it is still the standard procedure today. However, some disappointment followed rather rapidly. In 1979, the fused silica capillaries were introduced and rapidly created a big market. Knowledge about column preparation became a commercial issue, and just a few are left who know how to make capillary columns.