

September, the Month of Conferences

Victoria F. Samanidou*

Laboratory of Analytical Chemistry, Department of Chemistry, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, 54124 Thessaloniki, Greece

September is one of the most favorite months for organizing conferences. This year I had the chance to attend two very interesting events on the field of analytical chemistry.

The first one took place in İzmir, a beautiful city in Turkey, from September 16-20, 2012. This was the 8th Aegean Analytical Chemistry [1] Days Conference which is a meeting organized every two years alternately by Analytical Chemistry Departments of Turkish and Greek Universities. During this conference analytical chemists from the region around the Aegean Sea can exchange experience and knowledge based on their research in a large number of fields.

Izmir, also known as the pearl of the Aegean Sea (Turkish: *İzmir*, Greek: Σμύρνη Smyrni, Latin Smyrna) founded by the Trojans, is nowadays the third largest city of Turkey and the second biggest part of the country after Istanbul.

İzmir Institute of Technology (IZTECH) hosted scientists not only from Turkey and Greece, but from other countries as well, like Canada, Poland, Serbia, Ukraine, Libya, Iran, Palestine, Slovenia, Egypt and FYROM, since in the last years this conference has attracted international interest [2].

In the conference sessions advances in many analytical techniques such as Atomic Spectrometry, Molecular Spectrometry, Mass Spectrometry, Chromatography and Separation Techniques, Electroanalytical Techniques, Surface Characterization Techniques, Automated Methods of Analysis, Chemical and Biological Sensors, were presented. Moreover novel sample preparation and extraction techniques were discussed. Applications covered all fields of chemical analysis.

Among invited speakers the innovator of Solid Phase Microextraction (SPME), Dr. Janusz Pawliszyn from the University of Waterloo, Canada, presented the advances in In-vivo SPME. Dr. Suna Timur from the Ege University, İzmir, Turkey, discussed on bio-functionalized Fluorescence Probes: Cell Specific targeting and Imaging.

New Assay Platforms using functionalized nanoparticles and surface enhanced raman scattering were presented by Dr. Uğur Tamer from Gazi University, Ankara, Turkey. Green electrode materials as substitutes for mercury in voltammetry eg bismuth-film electrode (BFE) plated in situ for the determination of Pb and Zn in human hair were presented by Associate Professor Anastasios Economou from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece.

Other significant oral and poster contributions include: the determination of therapeutic drug through co-sense technique by using LC-MS/MS system for Bioequivalence and Bioavailability studies, the Pharmacokinetics of Etodolac in rabbits, the synthesis of gold nanoparticles using pH-sensitive hydrogel and spectroscopic detection of acetaminophen and ascorbic acid, the spectrophotometric determination of paracetamol using hydrogel based semi solid-liquid dispersive microextraction, and many others.

The second event concerned Flow Analysis [3,4]. This was the

12th International Conference on Flow Analysis, "Flow Analysis XII", a five-day scientific meeting, covering all areas of modern trends and applications of Flow Analytical techniques which was held in Thessaloniki, Greece, on September 23-28, 2012. The Conference was organized by the Laboratory of Analytical Chemistry of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, with the cooperation of Japanese association for flow injection analysis and Thai association for flow-based analysis.

During the last years the urge for *Green Analytical Chemistry* gave rise to the evolution of miniaturised and automated analytical techniques and methods. In this frame *Flow Analysis* has been widely applied to solve many analytical problems.

Thessaloniki, the second largest city in Greece with a population of around one million, is one of the oldest cities in Europe and one of the most important cities of the Balkans. In this lovely place participants from more than 20 countries all over the world met each other and discussed on the results of their research.

Here the participants had the opportunity to meet the pioneers of Flow Injection Analysis (FIA) Jaromir (Jarda) Ruzicka from the Department of Oceanography University of Hawaii, Honolulu, USA, who presented a short but comprehensive review of flow analysis techniques, and also Elo Harald Hansen from Technical University of Denmark.

Moreover other distinguished contributors participated presenting their research results. Manuel Miro from the Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, University of Balearic Islands, Palma de Mallorca, Spain presented the current role of the mesofluidic lab-on-a-valve platform in (bio)analytical sciences.

Marcela A Segundo from the Department of Chemical Sciences, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Porto, Portugal, highlighted the benefits of hyphenation of Sequential Injection Analysis (SIA) with liquid chromatography and the possibilities to be exploited in the near future.

Marek Trojanowicz from the Laboratory for Flow Analysis and Chromatography, Department of Chemistry, University of Warsaw, Poland, presented the application of flow analytical techniques for the investigation of chiral compounds. This is especially interesting in case of enantiomeric pharmaceuticals.

*Corresponding author: Victoria F Samanidou, Laboratory of Analytical Chemistry, Department of Chemistry, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, 54124 Thessaloniki, Greece, Tel: +30231997698; Fax: +302310997719; E-mail: samanidu@chem.auth.gr

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Recent applications concerning FIA of metal-containing biomolecules (metallomics), as well as other bioanalytical applications include the chemiluminometric determination of tetracyclines antibiotics by means of a combined multi-commutated/multi-pumped flow assembly in pharmaceuticals and urine, the study of carboplatin interactions with DNA nucleosides using LCMS-IT-TOF, the development of a high sensitivity multicommutated flow-batch approach for the photometric determination of aluminium in hemodialysis solution, the development of a fast method for platinum determination in carboplatin containing biofluids from anticancer treated patients by direct ICP-AES and on-line preconcentration SPE-ICP-AES, the determination of fat-soluble vitamins in human blood plasma with use of MEPS-SIC, the study of the quenching effect caused by quinolones over CdTe quantum dots using SIA and others.

So starting now the new academic year in the university we feel richer in knowledge, which can be transferred to young scientists, together with the wish for them to have the chance to attend and actively participate by oral or poster presentation in as many scientific conferences as they can afford.

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