

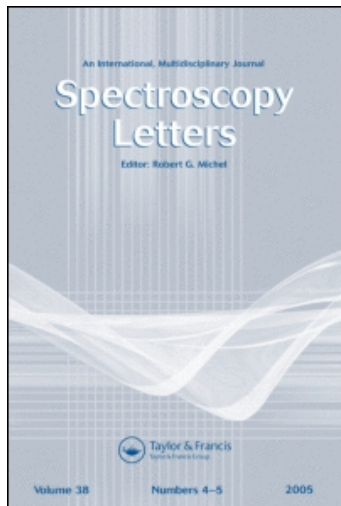
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Publisher *Taylor & Francis*

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Spectroscopy Letters

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:

<http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~content=t713597299>

Editorial

To cite this Article (2006) 'Editorial', *Spectroscopy Letters*, 39: 6, 511 — 512

To link to this Article: DOI: 10.1080/00387010600936753

URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00387010600936753>

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Editorial

Spectroscopy and Automation

Automation is a fascinating challenge of today's analytical chemistry and process control, and all research efforts in this area have immediate effects on the technical development and environmental side effects of chemistry.

Spectroscopy, in both the atomic and molecular fields, provides the most numerous and useful tools to determine the chemical composition of any kind of sample and to control any chemical process through consideration of products formed and reagents consumed.

So, it is evident that spectroscopy and automation constitutes a hot topic of research, and for this reason *Spectroscopy Letters* has sponsored this special issue.

Additionally, 2006 is the year of the 10th International Conference on Flow Analysis, one of the most important areas of research in automation, and this journal would like to offer the community of researchers, who are working on FIA, SIA, and multicommutation, a new space to publish their results, and a meeting point to cooperate in the synergies of spectroscopy and automation in order to further basic developments and applications.

The reader will recognize in the following pages some of the most productive research teams and the most active fields through which the near future will provide exciting developments.

Many thanks to all the authors and referees who participated in this project and especially to the editor-in-chief of the journal, Prof. Robert Michel, for his support. I hope that the readers can enjoy the papers

enclosed in this special issue and that they may be interesting toward your future research.

Miguel de la Guardia (see biography in
Spectroscopy Letters 38: 661, 2005)

Associate Editor

and

SOLINQUIANA (Solutions & Innovation in
Analytical Chemistry (“química analítica” in Spanish)¹

¹SOLINQUIANA is a Spanish research team with a present staff of five members and many many friends and students who cooperate with it. SOLINQUIANA could be defined as an eagle of five heads to allow the appropriate synergy. The front cover of the journal shows a photograph of the members of the group: From the right to the left Angel Morales-Rubio, Agustín Pastor, Miguel de la Guardia, Marisa Cervera, and Salvador Garrigues. The Web page www.uv.es/solinqui gives more details about the members of this team, which has published more than 380 papers on analytical chemistry.