

Editorial

Editorial to ICFIA XII Conference S.I.

The 12th International Conference on Flow Injection Analysis including related techniques (ICFIA XII/JAFIA) was held in Mérida, Venezuela, 7–13 December 2003 and was hosted by Jose Luis Burguera (Co-organizer) and Marcela Burguera (Co-secretariat) from the Los Andes University. The scientific program was arranged by Koos van Staden (Co-organizer) and Raluca Stefan (Co-secretariat). This Conference started informally in the USA as the Winter Conference on Flow Injection Analysis (WCFIA I) organised by Gary Christian and Jarda Ruzicka with the first held 5–9 January, 1989 in Orlando, Florida. This was followed by a series with WCFIA II, 3–5 January, 1990, Orlando, Florida; WCFIA III, 6–9 January, 1991, Scottsdale, AZ; WCFIA IV, 12–14 January, 1992, Scottsdale, AZ; WCFIA V, 3–6 Jan-

uary, 1993, Marathon, FL and WCFIA VI, 4–7 January, 1994, Santa Diego, CA. The Conference changed to an international flavor with the Japanese Association for Flow Injection Analysis (JAFIA) invited to join the conference. The first international flavored conference (also the first I joined) was held by Gary Christian and Jarda Ruzicka from 13 to 17 August 1995 in Seattle, WA in the USA as the International Conference on Flow Injection Analysis (ICFIA VII/JAFIA). This was again followed by a series with ICFIA VIII/JAFIA, 12–16 January, 1997, Orlando, FL and ICFIA IX/JAFIA, 23–27 August, 1998, Seattle, WA. The next conference (ICFIA X/JAFIA) moved for the first time out of the USA to Prague in the Czech Republic from 20 to 25 June 1999 followed by ICFIA XI/JAFIA held during 16–20



Fig. 1. Professor Gary Christian addressing the participants of ICFIA XII/JAFIA.

December 2001 in Chiang Mai, Thailand where the name also changed to International Conference on Flow Injection Analysis including related techniques as a result of the latest technological developments. The international steering committee for ICFA XII/JAFIA was chaired by Gary Christian (USA) and includes Jose Luis Burguera (Venezuela), Kate Grudpan (Thailand), Ian McKelvie (Australia), Shoji Motomizu (Japan, JAFIA), Jarda Ruzicka (USA) Tadao Sakai (Japan, Journal of Flow Injection Analysis) and Koos van Staden (South Africa) with Sue Christian as Advisor.

ICFA XII/JAFIA was held in collaboration with the Japanese Association for Flow Injection Analysis (JAFIA) celebrating their 20th anniversary, the Faculty of Sciences, Los Andes University, Mérida and the University of Pretoria, South Africa and was supported and sponsored in a small way by the families of Burguera (Jose Luis and Marcela) and van Staden (Koos and Raluca). The conference was dedicated to Professor Gary (Fig. 1) and Sue Christian for their enormous contribution and devotion to ICFA through all the years.

Eighteen countries from five continents were presented. (Fig. 2). The conference was opened on Sunday evening (7 December 2003) at the Aula Magna (Great Hall) of the Los Andes University (Fig. 3) by the Rector Professor Dr. Genryi

Vargas of the University of Los Andes, thereafter the participants were then treated to a string quintet concert before adjourning for a fine reception.

Social programs included a show of Venezuelan dancers with colorful costumes on Monday and a fascinating tour to the high country in the Andes Mountains on Wednesday that at 4100 m above sea level literally took our breath away. A gala banquet was held on Thursday evening. It began with a demonstration of Latin American dances and concluded with participants dancing to Mexican and Venezuelan music late into the evening.

The JAFIA celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2003. Shoji Motomizu, President of JAFIA, and Tadao Sakai, Editor of the Japanese Journal of Flow Injection Analysis (JFIA) presented a pictorial history and account of the Association and important contributors to JFIA. The occasion of the ICFA XII/JAFIA was used as the venue for presenting the annual JAFIA awards (for 2003). Professor Kate Grudpan, Chiang Mai University, was awarded the JAFIA Scientific Award medal and Professor Duangjai Nacapricha, Mahidol University, received the JAFIA Best Article Award medal for a paper in JFIA. Professors Elo Hansen, Gary Christian, Koos van Staden and Jose Luis Burguera were greatly honored to



Fig. 2. Participants of ICFA XII/JAFIA in front of Belensate Conference venue.



Fig. 3. Opening Praesidium for ICFIA XII/JAFIA. From left to right: Prof. Dr. Jose Luis Burguera, Co-Chairman, ICFIA; Prof. Dr. Patricia Rosenzweig, Dean Faculty of Sciences; University of Los Andes; Prof. Dr. Gladys Becerra Depablos, Secretary, University of Los Andes; Prof. Dr. Henri Vargas, Rector, University of Los Andes, Speaking; Prof. Dr. Gary Christian, Chair International Steering Committee, ICFIA, Dean, Faculty of Science, University of Washington, Seattle USA; Prof. Dr. Koos van Staden, Co-Chairman and Chairman, Scientific Program, ICFIA, University of Pretoria, South Africa; Prof. Dr. Shoji Motomizu, President, Japanese Association of Flow Injection Analysis (JAFIA), Division of the Japanese Society for Analytical Chemistry.

receive the JAFIA Scientific Honor Award medal and certificate, which JAFIA and the Japan Society for Analytical Chemistry (JSAC) grant only every 5 years, and Sue Christian was specially honored with the JAFIA Special Gold Medal for her years of contributions and devotion to the Conference. These awards were particularly special as 20th anniversary recognitions.

The Conference was devoted exclusively to flow injection analysis including related techniques. Thirty-nine papers and over 60 posters were presented over the 5 days. The scientific program was opened with the first of 14 plenary lectures, by Elo Hansen (Technical University of Denmark) who spoke on the impact of FIA on modern analysis. This was followed by plenary lectures throughout the week that included microfluidic flow systems with the compact disc analyzer as new generation (Koos van Staden, University of Pretoria), development of flow bio-detection amperometric sensors for food and cosmetic analysis (Milt Karayannis, University of Ioannina), multi-pumping flow systems for automation (Jose

Luis Lima, University of Porto), determination of trace impurities in ultrapurified waters and chemicals at pg/ml level by flow-based analysis (Shoji Motomizu, Okayama University), analytical applications of organized assemblies for on-line spectrophotometric determinations (Marcela Burguera, Los Andes University), development of new devices on flow injection detection for environmental and biological samples (Tadao Sakai, Aichi Institute of Technology), mathematical modelling of flow injection systems (Ari Ivaska, Abo Akademi University), tracing the origins of analytical chemistry and the development of analytical methods and textbooks that led up to the development of flow injection-based techniques (Gary Christian, University of Washington), multi-component analysis using electrochemical sensors in flow systems (presented for Raluca Stefan, University of Pretoria by Koos van Staden), contributions to the development of multi-syringe flow injection analysis (Victor Cerda, University de les Illes Balears), novel cost-effective flow-based systems (Kate Grudpan, Chiang Mai University), exploiting

prior assays for flow systems reducing the number of analysis needed (Elias Zagatto, University of São Paulo, Piracicaba) and flow analysis-FTIR as a powerful analytical technique (Maximo Gallignani, Los Andes University). The 25 oral presentations covered various novel developments in instrumentation and spectrophotometric, luminescence, atomic spectrometric and electrochemical applications. There were over 60 poster presentations by participants from Brazil, Greece, Japan, Oman, The Philippines, South Africa, Spain, Turkey, Thailand, Uruguay, USA and Venezuela. Flow-based techniques were very well illustrated by posters on automation, chemometrics on-line pre-concentration, separation, membrane separations, solid-phase extraction, reactions and sample clean-up, microwave-assisted derivatization and sample preparation, speciation, multi-component analyses, catalytic and kinetic methods, stopped-flow reactions, SIA and FIA with electrochemical and (bio) sensors as detectors, and FTIR, fluorescence, spectrophotometric, diode array, and vapor-phase atomic absorption detection. Applications of FIA, SIA – including related techniques – were reported for a variety of samples, including biological fluids, pharmaceutical products, environmental samples, gasoline, oil, and soil extracts.

This special issue of Talanta includes papers from the conference that represents research work and applications ranging from industrial and government laboratories to the academia.

Members of the Steering Committee (Gary Christian, Chair, Mike Bloomfield, Jose Luis Burguera, Kate Grudpan, Shoji Motomizu, Tadao Sakai, Koos van Staden with

Sue Christian as Advisor) has selected the next venue for the ICFIA XIII/JAFIA (ICFIA 2005) to return to the USA to Las Vegas, Nevada, USA from 24 to 29 April, 2005 at the New Frontier Hotel as the conference venue. Gary and Sue Christian have enthusiastically agreed to organise and host the conference. For details, please contact Sue Christian at sue@flowinjection.com.

I herewith want to thank Jose Luis and Marcela Burguera for their excellent hosting of the conference with the staff and students from Los Andes University with the warm hospitality, Raluca Stefan, my wife, for the hard work on the secretariat in organising the scientific program, Gary and Sue Christian for valuable advice and to all the participants that contribute to make the ICFIA XII/JAFIA an overwhelming success.

J.F. van Staden

*Department of Chemistry, University of Pretoria
Pretoria. 0002. South Africa*

Corresponding author. Tel.: + 27 84 480 7263

E-mail address: Koos.vanStaden@chem.up.ac.za
(J.F. van Staden)

J.L. Burguera

*Faculty of Sciences, Venezuelan, Andean Institute for
Chemical Research, Los Andes University
P.O. Box 542, Mérida 5101-A, Venezuela
26 June 2004*

Available online 28 August 2004