



## Preface

# Seventeenth International Conference on Flow Injection Analysis

The 17th International Conference on Flow Injection Analysis including Related Techniques (ICFIA) took place on 3–8 July, 2011 in Krakow, Poland. The conference, held under the auspices of the Committee for Analytical Chemistry of the Polish Academy of Sciences and the Japanese Association for Flow Injection Analysis (JAFIA), was organized by scientists from the Department of Analytical Chemistry, Faculty of Chemistry, Jagiellonian University, the Chairpersons being Paweł Kościelniak and Joanna Kozak. The organizers hosted 141 participants from 24 countries, among them the majority of scientists who have contributed (and continue to contribute) significantly to the methodological and instrumental development and practical application of flow injection analysis, as well as young scientists and students. The scientific program consisted of an opening, keynote (7), invited (9) and special (2) lectures and also oral (34) and poster (74) presentations.

The conference was opened by Gary Christian, the originator and tireless driving force behind the ICFIA conferences. His lecture concerned the history of analytical chemistry as a prelude to flow injection analysis. Keynote lectures were presented by Jarda Ruzicka, Tadao Sakai, Marek Trojanowicz, José Luis Burguera, Purendu Dasgupta, Manuel Miró and Víctor Cerdà. Invitations to speak were also accepted by Elo Harald Hansen, Jacobus van Staden, Robert Koncki, Spas Kolev, Aristidis Anthemidis, Antonio Rangel, João Santos, Shoji Motomizu and Toshihiko Imato. The lectures and submitted oral contributions covered a variety of subjects: the history of flow injection analysis, current ideas on flow technique development and application and the outlook for further advancements. The presentations discussed, e.g.: computer-controlled flow systems for environmental analyses, advances in liquid-phase micro-extraction and solid-phase extraction in flow systems, new trends in miniaturization in flow analysis, concepts of incorporating nanotechnology capabilities into flow systems as well as novel ideas in the field of sensors and detectors. Regarding instrumentation, examples of utilization of flow techniques based on employing multisyringe, multipumping, multicommutation, sequential injection, lab-on-valve or hybrid flow systems as well as modified flow techniques such as cross or stepwise injection were presented.

The majority of oral and poster presentations were devoted to practical analytical applications of flow systems. Contributions relating to various aspects of environmental protection predominated. These involved instrumental adaptation of the systems and their application to control and monitoring of toxic substances. Among other presentations ones dealing with the following should be mentioned as being especially interesting: the implementation of flow systems in the fields of food analysis, drugs and psychotropic substances determination for the purposes



of toxicological and clinical research and in the increasingly popular field of “green chemistry”. Spontaneous and quite often intense discussions that arose after presentations contributed additional academic and educational value, complementing, broadening and enriching the presentations. This constituted an excellent class for many young researchers attending the conference.

A special, half-day session was devoted to “Polish FIA”. The occasion was the declaration of 2011 as the International Year of Chemistry and of Marie Skłodowska-Curie. The session was opened by Bogusław Buszewski, the Chair of the Polish Society of Chemistry, who gave a lecture dedicated to this greatest of Polish scientists. Afterwards, representatives of various Polish academic centers presented their contributions to flow injection analysis in areas such as calibration, titration, multicomponent analysis, and detection systems.

The 17th ICFIA conference was held in the Hotel Park Inn by Radisson. The conference debates, presentations of posters, apparatus and chemical accessories as well as the welcome reception and conference lunches were held there. The social program included the welcome reception on Sunday evening, Krakow sightseeing on Tuesday afternoon, a whole day excursion to Zakopane on Wednesday and a conference banquet on Thursday evening. After closing the conference, on Friday afternoon some participants took part in additional excursions to “Wieliczka” Salt Mine or the Auschwitz Birkenau Memorial and Museum. Zakopane, a beautiful town situated at the foot of the Tatra Mountains, famous for its rich folklore and picturesque surroundings, will undoubtedly be unforgettable to participants on account of the relentless rain! During the excursion, they had an opportunity to become acquainted with the unique buildings of the region. The unfavorable weather conditions considerably limited the possibilities of sightseeing, and so participants willingly accepted an invitation to a highland inn,

where they spent several hours enjoying a feast featuring regional cuisine, folk music and dances. The conference banquet took place in the Centre of Japanese Art and Technology “Manggha”. During the banquet, Spas Kolev, Antonio Rangel and Norio Teshima were awarded medals by Tadao Sakai, Chairman of the Japanese Association for Flow Injection Analysis for their scientific achievements in the field of flow analysis. Next, the Conference Chairman presented Susana Vidigal and Rasha El Nashar with poster awards funded by the organizers of the conference.

---

The organizers would like to thank the lecturers and all participants of the 17th ICFA Conference. We appreciate their scientific contributions as well as the warm and friendly atmosphere they helped to create during their stay in Krakow. The broad cross section of topics covered at the conference is reflected in the 37 peer reviewed papers submitted by the conference participants to this special issue of *Talanta* dedicated to the 17th ICFA.

The 18th International Conference on Flow Injection Analysis will be hosted by Antonio Rangel from the Portuguese Catholic University in Porto, Portugal, in 2013. This event will be preceded by the 12th Conference on Flow Analysis, which will be held this year in Thessaloniki, Greece.



Paweł Kościelniak\*  
Joanna Kozak  
Jagiellonian University,  
Department of Analytical Chemistry,  
Faculty of Chemistry, Ingardena 3, Krakow, Poland

\* Corresponding author.  
E-mail address: [koscieln@chemia.uj.edu.pl](mailto:koscieln@chemia.uj.edu.pl)  
(P. Kościelniak)

Available online 22 February 2012