

Editorial

The manuscripts in this special issue of ACA are contributions that were presented at the CAC 2006 Conference from September 10 to 15, 2006. CAC 2006 was the 10th International Conference on Chemometrics in Analytical Chemistry and was held in Águas de Lindóia, Brazil, a small town 160 km north of São Paulo city and very typical for this part of the Brazilian countryside. Prof. Márcia Ferreira, from the Universidade Estadual de Campinas, chaired the local organizing committee and provided an outstanding meeting environment. The conference venue, as well as the program and the contributions were very inspiring. The sometimes magical atmosphere of the tropics contributed to the success of this conference. There were 136 participants from 24 different countries from all over the world.



Conference Room



Poster Session

The conference motto was “Chemometrics in the Tropics: Nature, Medicine and Industry”. With this motto it was quite appropriate and fortunate that, at the dawn of 21st century, CAC-2006 could be held in Brazil at a time when natural products and biofuels are emerging as important frontiers of economic and technological development.

The conference was opened by Prof. Márcia Ferreira with one minute of silence in remembrance of Prof. Massart, one of the founders of CAC, who passed away in December 2006.

The first speaker was none else than Prof. Bruce Kowalski. For the ‘older’ people amongst us, it was a great pleasure to see Bruce back, as inspiring and motivating as we always knew him. For the younger people this was a very special opportunity to meet Prof. Kowalski in person, whose papers are still part of the basics of their chemometric education, in person.

Along with traditional and contemporary topics in chemometrics, some new fields of computational and statistical methods (like data mining) having current developing interface with chemometrics were emphasized at CAC-2006. The various scientific topics were covered by 14 plenary lectures, 48 oral presentations of 15–20 min and two poster sessions with 95 contributions.

The conference excursion brought us to a beautiful exposition of tropical flowers in Holambra, a Dutch-founded city near Campinas and ended with a delicious typical Brazilian churrasco, a Brazilian non-vegetarian banquet. The posters awards, sponsored by CAMO, Infometrix and Eigenvector Research for the three best posters, were announced at this festive conference dinner. Speaking of the social events, it should be pointed that the one of its highlights was a football match in which the invincible Brazilian chemometric team was surprisingly defeated by the Rest-of-the-world team.

This CAC conference was again very successful and motivating. The many contributions, the posters as well as the lectures, certainly have challenged the participants to develop new approaches to solve the major scientific challenges in chemometrics, all this in a pleasant and warmhearted atmosphere, so necessary for the development of new research collaborations and for scientific interchange.

We are convinced that everyone is already looking forward to the next CAC conference.

CAC 2008 will be held in Montpellier, France from June 30th to July 4th 2008

<http://www.cac2008.org/>

Editor of ACA
Lutgarde Buydens*
Nijmegen, 2007

Conference Chair
Márcia M.C. Ferreira
Campinas

Guest Editor
Sarah Rutan
Richmond, VA

* Corresponding author.

Available online 3 May 2007