

JFIA Reaches a Milestone as a Leading Publication in  
Flow Injection Analysis

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Dear Professor Sakai and his coeditors:

It is my great pleasure to congratulate the Japanese Association for Flow Injection Analysis and the Editors of the Journal of Flow Injection Analysis on the occasion of the fifteenth volume of JFIA. Since the invention of flow injection analysis nearly a quarter century ago, Professor Nobuhiko Ishibashi was a pioneer in Japan in the research and development of FIA; and the formation of the JAFIA and its journal, JFIA, was an important step in the adoption of FIA in Japan and in disseminating new research from the world over. As FIA matured into a widely accepted technique, these Japanese contributions have been important in promoting this important method.

During this time, we have witnessed the evolution of FIA from a simple manual technique to computer controlled, highly automated instrumentation that allows sophisticated sample handling techniques and measurements, including gas diffusion, solvent extraction, kinetic measurements, and immunochemical measurements. Novel detector systems have enhanced the power of the technique, such as the ability to perform solid phase extraction and make measurements directly on microbeads. The new generation of sequential injection analysis has simplified many sample and reagent handling methodologies, and the manifold design and operations required. JFIA has chronicled all these developments and applications.

The semiannual meetings of the JAFIA are unique in the world. The JAFIA members have been strong supporters of the International Conference on

Flow Injection Analysis (ICFIA) (originally the Winter Conference on Flow Injection Analysis). It is a pleasure to have held joint meetings of JAFIA and ICFIA for the last several years, and the Japanese contributions have always been important. This event has attracted participants from over 25 countries and has showcased top quality FIA research from around the world. We are looking forward to hosting another joint conference August 23-27 in Seattle, at the Ninth International Conference on FIA (ICFIA 98).

JFIA is the only journal in the world devoted to flow injection analysis, and we thank you for providing this important venue for disseminating research and keeping the FIA community current on all events and topics related to this technique. My congratulations to you and your coeditors as you take over the editorship of this important journal, and my deep gratitude to Professor Kawashima as he steps down, also to Professor Motomizu for his leadership of JAFIA.