



## Playful Reflections on the Use of Abbreviations and Acronyms in Analytical Flow Methods

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Dear JFIA readers,

The December 2006 issue of the JFIA signalizes that we are nearly at the outset of the New Year 2007 and this is a good excuse (GE) for cheerful worldwide celebrations (CWC). Therefore I would like to address international community of flow analysts (ICFA) with an informal would-be good-humored foreword on abbreviations and acronyms appearing in the field of flow analysis.

There is no doubt that dedicated flow analysts are well acquainted with the meaning of basic abbreviations such as FIA and SIA. But are these abbreviations well recognized by the majority of outsiders? If one tries to search for FIA or SIA through Internet Google engine, 19 500 000 entries appear for FIA and even 107 000 000 entries are shown for SIA. The first 20 -30 entries for FIA include, e.g., Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile, Futures Industry Association, Fitness Industry Association, Forest Inventory and Analysis, Forging Industry Association, Fundraising Institute Australia and Fitness Institute Australia but no Flow Injection Analysis can be found among the top 100 (I had no patience to dive deeper to the bottom). Unfortunately there is similar problem with SIA: Sonja Ingegerd Andersson's home fashion company is the first most frequently accessed SIA website, followed by Salon International de l'Agriculture, Semiconductor Industry Association, Singapore Airlines, Security Industry Authority, Scaffold Industry Association and Survivors of Incest Anonymous (adults recovering together from child sexual abuse) etc. Alas, no Sequential Injection Analysis is mentioned in the top 100.

Does it mean that the ICFA is not active enough and that the field of flow methods is declining? Well, it does not seem so. Participants of the X<sup>th</sup> International Flow Conference held in Porto in September 2006 could notice that a number of novel flow abbreviations emerged recently. Just to mention AIA (All Injection Analysis), BIA-ED (Batch Injection Analysis with electrochemical detection), BLM-FI (Bulk liquid membrane – flow injection), HSIA (Hydrodynamic Sequential Injection Analysis), MCFIA (Multi-commutation flow injection analysis), MSFIA (Multi-Syringe Flow Injection Analysis), MPFS (Multi-Pumping Flow System), MSLC (Multisyringe Liquid Chromatography), FI-CD (Flow injection with circular dichroism detection), SAA (Sequential Aspiration Analysis), SIC (Sequential Injection Chromatography), SI-MCE (Sequential Injection – Microcolumn Extraction), SIL-FA (stopped-in-loop reaction-based flow analysis), SIA-PALM (Sequential Injection Analysis coupled with PALM computer technology), and VFICM (Versatile Flow Injection

Calibration Manifold) as typical examples. Presumably a dictionary of such abbreviations or acronyms should be compiled soon. I dare to suggest several original entries for the future Flow Dictionary that might occupy foremost positions in the Google searches. **MAFIA** (Medium-Automated Flow Injection Analysis); **FIACRE** (Flow Injection Analysis with Completely Reduced Emission); **FIASCO** (Flow Injection Analysis with Stuffy Coils); **ASIA** (Advanced Sequential Injection Analysis); **SASIA** (Super-Advanced Sequential Injection Analysis); **PERSIA** (Perfectly Economical Reagentless Sequential Injection Analysis); **HYPERPLASIA** (Hypodermic Pumping Leakage-Abundant Sequential Injection Analysis); **EPILEPSIA** (Elephantine Pump-In-Lab Effluents Producing Sequential Injection Analysis); and **AMNESIA** (Alzheimer-Manipulated Nerves Exciting Sequential Injection Analysis).

I would like to conclude the foreword with a Short Quiz for Clever Flow Analysts (SQCFA). Please pay your attention to Fig. 1 and try to find the correct answer. I wish all winning solvers of SQCFA a Bright and Prosperous Year 2007.



Fig. 1 Depicts:

(A) Mobile Sequential Injection Analysis laboratory freely accessible to accidental passer-by customers; (B) Mobile office of Satellite Industry Association; (C) Singapore Airlines sight-seeing bus; (D) Mobile shop of Semiconductor Industry Association (Trade association representing the US microchip manufacturing industry).

\*See bottom of this page for solution.

\*(C is correct)