

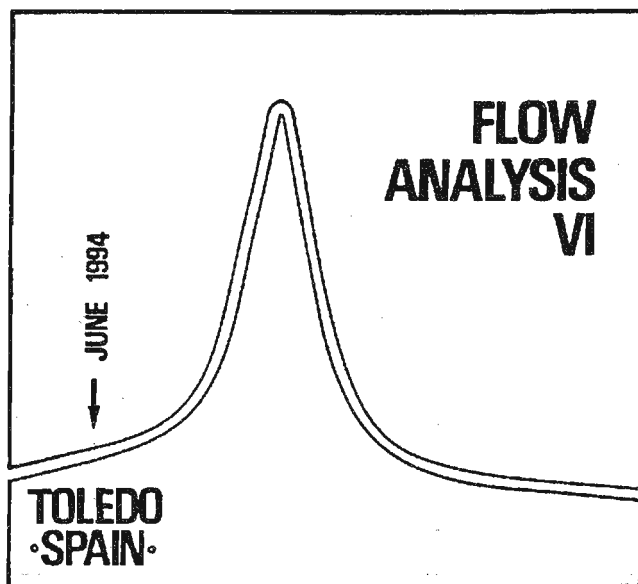
FIA: WHERE ARE WE AND WHERE ARE WE GOING?

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A number of major assets such as extreme simplicity, economy and versatility have helped Flow Injection Analysis (FIA) to reach a high degree of maturity in a fairly short time. The avalanche of publications on FIA, though, has not materialized in its popularization and systematic use by routine analytical laboratories. This can in principle be attributed to the scarce availability of commercial FIA instruments from major manufacturers. Also, much FIA research has been focused on purely academic subjects rather than on innovations and solutions for real analytical problems, which has prevented FIA from being granted its actual relevance by the scientific community. In fact, FIA as such was rarely among the major topics dealt with at the major analytical chemistry meetings held in the last few years. However, FIA principles are being increasingly applied both in research work and in developing new commercial instruments without FIA being explicitly mentioned in the meetings, paper keywords or trade names concerned.



The future of FIA should be discussed seriously at Flow Analysis VI (FAVI), to be held in Toledo (Spain) in June 1994, organized by our research group. FIA workers should consider in which directions future steps must be taken and which routes must be abandoned altogether. Thus, we shall undertake the organization of this meeting with two main aims in mind, namely to have authors reflect on the matter and to let some fresh air in by inviting both young scientists and experts in other scientific areas who use FIA systematically both for basic and for applied research purposes.

This is thus the first formal invitation to all those interested in FIA to attend FAVI at the historic imperial city of Toledo (Spain). The meeting's programme shall be compiled by a broad Scientific Committee. Any suggestions put forward in relation to the organization and scientific contents of the event will be welcome.