

The 1992 Winter Conference on Flow Injection Analysis (WCFIA '92) was held in Scottsdale, Arizona, January 12-14. This was the fourth WCFIA, the prior ones being held in Orlando, Florida (1989 and 1990) and Scottsdale (1991). There were 50 participants from eight countries: Brazil, Canada, Finland, Great Britain, Japan, Germany, Spain and the United States, in addition to a Czechoslovakian presently visiting the U.S.

A special feature was a symposium on chemometrics in FIA, arranged by Professor Adrian Wade from the University of British Columbia. And this year's WCFIA had an expanded Posters session (14 posters). These were especially popular with the foreign participants and reflect the increased and welcome foreign presence. There were two dozen presentations over a two day period, followed by a panel discussion with the seven session chairs.

Exhibitors included Alitea USA, The Perkin-Elmer Corporation, and Upchurch Scientific.

Highlights of presentations included talks on reductions of peak variance in FIA by chromatographer John Dorsey, closed loop recirculating manifolds as interfaces for atomic spectrometry by Julian Tyson, use of FIA for sample introduction in ICP-MS by Uwe Vollkopf, flow injection cytoanalysis by Jarda Ruzicka, programmable FIA for process monitoring by Ali Afnan, automated FIA in the industrial analytical laboratory by Keith Conerly, and LED based flow through absorption detectors by Sandy Dasgupta, to name some. In the poster sessions, novel applications of FIA were presented, such as reverse FIA of complexing agents and complexing capacity (Hideyuki Itabashi), FIA-FTIR determination of toluene in gasolines (M. de la Guardia), determination of acid volatile sulfide in sediments (Ivan Sekerka) and precise determination of seawater pH by FIA (Richard Bellerby).

All in all, the participants enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere of the conference and the opportunity for informal discussions and the chance to see the latest FIA research in university/government laboratories and the chemical industry. Hence, they expressed a strong desire to continue the conference next year. WCFIA '93 is planned for January 3-6 in Marathon, Florida, in the Florida Keys, with easy access from Miami International Airport. The schedule will include time off in the afternoon for more informal interactions, with presentations stretched over a three day period. Further information may be obtained by contacting me at the address or FAX number below.

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