

FEATURE

7th Uruguayan Congress of Analytical Chemistry (CUQA 7)

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The Uruguayan Congress of Analytical Chemistry (CUQA) celebrated its 7th edition last October 26th to 28th in Montevideo, Uruguay. It was organized by researchers from the Faculty of Chemistry and Faculty of Sciences, Universidad de la República (UdelaR), and supported by the Area of Technologies and Sciences of Nature and Habitat of UdelaR. Since 2009, when the first CUQA was organized, the event has traditionally been held every 2 years. In 2012, it was organized together with the 5th Ibero-American Congress of Analytical Chemistry (CIAQA). All editions have been held in Montevideo, a reference destination in Latin America. Throughout the year, the city offers visitors a varied cultural and recreational agenda, quality services, and captivating landscapes. Montevideo is a recognized venue for organizing international conferences of various kinds.



Members of the Organizing Committee at the welcome ceremony of the 7th CUQA.

CUQA's main goal was to present and discuss the latest advances in Analytical Chemistry in Uruguay and the region. In this edition, plenty of topics were covered including Automation in Analytical Chemistry, Bioanalytical Chemistry, Education in Analytical Chemistry, Analytical Nanosystems, Environmental Analytical Chemistry, Food Analytical Chemistry, Pharmaceutical Analytical Chemistry, Toxicological Analytical Chemistry, and Electroanalytical Chemistry. The 7th CUQA had approximately 200 participants from all around the country, as well as 40 foreign participants from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and Perú.

In this edition, 9 sessions with 7 lectures, 18 oral presentations, 2 poster sessions (110 poster presentations), and several social integration activities were held. The meeting also presented a panel discussion session entitled "Analytical Chemistry in Environmental Mitigation", which was led by various experts on the subject. It is important to mention that the 7th CUQA provided 2 days for exposition of

companies working in the Analytical Chemistry field in Uruguay, allowing a fruitful interaction with the participants who were able to be in touch with the newest instrumental advances and facilities for analytical laboratories. During the closing ceremony, 6 poster awards were delivered to recognize the most distinguished works.

The Organizing Committee is grateful to all the sponsors, whose contribution made it possible to carry out the event successfully. We are thankful to the *Brazilian Journal of Analytical Chemistry* (*BrJAC*) that offered a Special Issue devoted to the 7th CUQA. This Special Issue is dedicated to the publication of those works presented in the 7th CUQA. The Guest Editor, Dr. Ignacio Machado, thanks all authors for submitting their contributions and all reviewers for sharing their time and expertise to contribute to the quality of the collection. We also thank *INNOTEC*, the digital journal of the Technological Laboratory of Uruguay (LATU), that kindly invited all the participants of the 7th CUQA to send their manuscripts to be considered for publication. Finally, we are thankful to the support of the Scientific Committee, to the staff of "José Luis Massera" Auditorium, and to all the participants that contributed to a new successful edition of CUQA.



Closing ceremony of 7th CUQA.



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