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FEATURE

9th Analitica Congress and National Meeting of Analytical Chemistry (ENQA) Addressed Medicinal Cannabis for the First Time

The 9th Analitica Congress and the National Meeting of Analytical Chemistry (ENQA) were held on September 26–27, 2023, at the São Paulo Expo Exhibition & Convention Center, São Paulo, SP, Brazil. The event broke attendance records with approximately 135 attendees, about 35% more than the previous edition. With about 10 hours of exclusive content, important topics such as “3D Printing in Analytical Chemistry” and “New Strategies for Food Analysis” were discussed. Two topics attracted a lot of attention: “Forensic Analysis”, which focused on a new method in Brazil for testing drugs with sublingual absorption, and “Cannabis Characterization and Analytical Methods”. This was the first time that the topic of medicinal cannabis was addressed at the Analitica Congress.

Participants attending a presentation at the Analitica Congress. Photo: Analitica Latin America (ALA) Press Office.

The event also featured awards for scientific studies in the field of analytical chemistry. Out of 25 finalists, three were selected as the best works and each received a voucher to be used at NMB Travel, the travel agency of NürnbergMesse Brasil. All the finalist works were displayed as posters during the three-day event. According to Nadja Bento, Director of the Life Science Portfolio at NürnbergMesse Brasil, “Initiatives such as these awards help to promote scientific development. Analytical chemistry is present in many areas of our lives, from the development of new medicine to the quality control of the food we eat. That’s why we must not only generate business but also generate knowledge, and value our scientists.”.

At this event, the first Analitica Road Show was announced, which will take place in Santiago, Chile, on April 10, 2024. The creation of the Analitica Road Show aims to disseminate the knowledge generated at the Analitica Congress to other Latin American countries. “It will be a unique opportunity for us to continue promoting the development of analytical chemistry and the link between academia and the market in Latin America,” concluded Nadja Bento.

Commemorative Panel

The Brazilian Journal of Analytical Chemistry (BrJAC) held a panel session to celebrate the achievement of the Journal Impact Factor$_{2022}$ of 0.7

During this panel session, the Young Talent in Analytical Chemistry Award, created by BrJAC to recognize outstanding young researchers in (bio)analytical chemistry, was presented. The winner of the 2023 award was Prof. Dr. Boniek Gontijo Vaz, who holds a degree in chemistry from the Federal University of São Carlos (2007), a master's degree in chemistry from the State University of Campinas - Unicamp (2009), and a Ph.D. in science from Unicamp (2011). Dr. Vaz is currently an Associate Professor at the Institute of Chemistry of the Federal University of Goiás (IQ-UFG), General Secretary of the Latin American Association of Organic Geochemistry (ALAGO) since 2018, and Associate Editor of the journal *Quimica Nova*. He also coordinates the Chromatography and Mass Spectrometry Laboratory (LaCEM) at IQ-UFG.

Additional information on the BrJAC Commemorative Panel is presented in BrJAC 2024, Vol 11, No. 42, pp 131-132.

Dr. Boniek G. Vaz, Luciene Campos (BrJAC Publisher) and Dr. Arruda (BrJAC Editor-in-chief) at the Young Talent in Analytical Chemistry award ceremony. Photo: Luciene Campos.

A short interview with Prof. Dr. Boniek Gontijo Vaz

BrJAC: How did it feel to receive the Young Talent in Analytical Chemistry Award?
Dr. Vaz: Receiving this recognition from BrJAC was a milestone for me. BrJAC is not just a symbol, but a living testimony to the resilience and incredible success of our scientific community, which serves as an inexhaustible source of inspiration. For me, this award is not just a trophy, but a boost, a spark that rekindles and fuels the flame of my passion for scientific research. It strengthens my mission to continue investing in analytical chemistry in Brazil and to train qualified professionals who will drive the scientific and technological growth of our country.

BrJAC: How did you begin your career?
Dr. Vaz: My journey into the world of science took shape during my master's and Ph.D. studies when I immersed myself in the fascinating world of mass spectrometry. I remember that time like it was yesterday, especially because of the installation of the pioneering FT-ICR MS instrument at Unicamp. Together with Petrobras, the national oil and gas company of Brazil, I was able to develop productive partnerships, always looking for methodological innovations and analytical solutions that made a significant contribution to the field of analytical chemistry. Then, in 2012, as a result of the recognition of my expertise, I was approved for a professorship at UFG, which opened doors and allowed me to build a solid research group in the field of mass spectrometry. This path not only shaped my career, but also solidified my passion for research and innovation.


Prof. Dr. Boniek Gontijo Vaz, winner of the Young Talent in Analytical Chemistry award. Photo: Boniek G. Vaz.

BrJAC: What advice can you give to someone starting a career in analytical chemistry?
Dr. Vaz: I would say that passion is your compass. If you put your heart into it and love what you do, success will follow naturally. First, young researchers need to make sure that the field they have chosen matches their interests and aspirations. Once they have this clarity, they must dedicate themselves deeply to their chosen purpose. As in any field, patience is essential. Standing firm and persevering in the face of challenges is the way to quickly see the fruits of their work appear.

BrJAC: What are your plans for the future?
Dr. Vaz: In the future, I intend to deepen my research into the universe of complex mixtures and try to extract even more detailed data. I'm about to start a new phase of research that focuses on the isotopic composition of molecules commonly found in these mixtures. Isotopic data bring complementary layers of information, giving us tools to trace the history of a given sample. This has the potential to answer many questions in the geosciences, environmental studies, and medicine. My goal is to lead the development of innovative isotopic analysis methods that take advantage of the capabilities of high-resolution mass spectrometry.

BrJAC: What are you currently working on?
Dr. Vaz: I am currently immersed in the fascinating world of mass spectrometry and organic geochemistry, with a focus on complex mixture analysis and petroleomics. In short, I'm dedicated to understanding the chemical composition, origin, migration, and transformation of organic compounds over time on Earth. Mass spectrometry has become an invaluable tool in this process, helping us identify molecules that tell us stories from millions of years ago. It's like being a molecular detective, unraveling mysteries hidden deep within the Earth. In addition to technical research, I am deeply committed to education. Teaching at the postgraduate level is a passion, as it allows me to mentor and shape the next generation of scientists. And, of course, I remain heavily involved with the Latin American Association of Organic Geochemistry (ALAGO), an organization that fosters an environment for discussion and interaction in the field of organic geochemistry, and with the journal *Quimica Nova*, where I am an associate editor, giving me a unique perspective on advances in the field of chemistry in Brazil and Latin America.

Chromatography and Mass Spectrometry Laboratory (LaCEM) Research Group at the Institute of Chemistry of the Federal University of Goiás. Photo: Boniek G. Vaz.

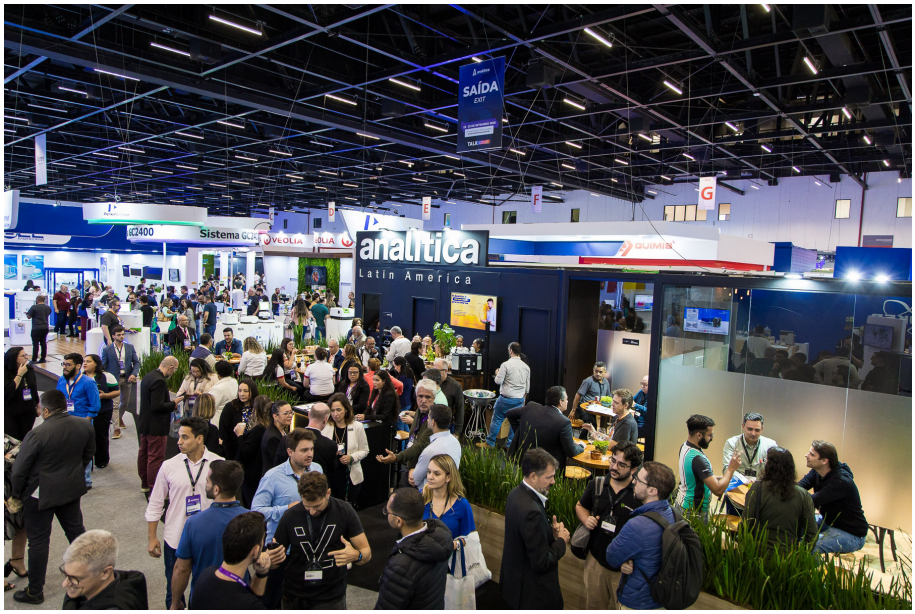
Analitica Latin America Expo welcomed nearly 10,000 visitors

Analitica Latin America Expo, the most important trade show for the chemical industry in Latin America, was held on September 26–28, 2023, at the São Paulo Expo Exhibition & Convention Center, São Paulo, SP, Brazil, and set a new record for attendance: 9,708 attendees. This figure represents a 77% increase over the previous edition of the event.

With more than 300 exhibitors, Analitica Latin America Expo is back to being a biennial event and the next one has already been scheduled. It will take place between September 23 and 25, 2025, at the São Paulo Expo Exhibition & Convention Center.

Companies have noticed an increase in the number of visitors to their stands. The creation of new contacts and the generation of business is a common point cited by most exhibitors and visitors alike.

The interest in signing new contracts was also reflected in the Business Roundtable session organized by NürnbergMesse Brasil, the show's organizer. The Business Roundtable brought together 67 companies, 20 sellers, and 47 buyers, and generated an audited value of R$ 14.4 million in just two hours of meetings. "This is what makes our event different. By bringing together a qualified audience and focusing on sectors that involve the entire analytical chemical industry chain, we can generate relevant connections that move the market." explained Nadja Bento.



Visitors walking around the Analitica Latin America Exposition. Photo: ALA Press Office.

During the event, suppliers, distributors, and manufacturers from the laboratory technology, biotechnology, and quality control sectors presented the latest news and trends in the analytical chemistry industry to visitors.

Nova Analítica, founded in 1992, was present at the exhibition and presented its products. Nova Analítica's objective is to promote and guarantee customer satisfaction, meeting, or exceeding expectations with the quality of its products and services. To achieve this, Nova Analítica is committed to supplying the best equipment and accessories for laboratories, manufactured by internationally renowned companies, and to providing technical and commercial support to meet the needs of each customer, however specific or complex they may be. Read more.

Thermo Fisher Scientific, a world leader in scientific products and solutions, was also present at the exhibition. In Brazil, more than 500 employees, from operations to customer service, reinforce the company's scientific focus. Thermo Fisher Scientific's mission is to enable customers to make the world healthier, cleaner, and safer by accelerating life science research, solving complex analytical challenges, improving patient diagnosis, and increasing laboratory productivity. Read more.

Milestone, founded in 1988 as the first specialized laboratory instrument manufacturer to focus on advanced microwave technology for sample preparation, with over 50 patents and 20,000 users worldwide, was also present at the exhibition. Read more.

Corning Incorporated, a global leading innovator in materials science, developing products for optical communications, mobile consumer electronics, display technologies, automotive, and life sciences, presented Videodrop at the Analitica Latin America Expo. "Videodrop is a device that revolutionizes real-time nanoparticle detection and analysis. It can analyze a sample in less than 60 seconds, requiring only a single drop of 5 to 10 microliters of material for testing. Videodrop is designed to accelerate the research, development, and production of drugs, vaccines, and cell and gene therapies. The new product is easy to use, fast and reliable, and should arrive in Brazil very soon, promising to optimize the process in several laboratories." said Ricardo Artur Vian, Corning's Quality and Technical Support Coordinator in Latin America. Read more.

Waters Corporation, a world leader in specialty measurement focused on improving the health and well-being of people through the application of advanced analytical technologies and industry-leading scientific expertise, has introduced the Aliance iS HPLC system. This product is based on robust technology but applied in a much more modern, intuitive way that eliminates up to 40% of common errors in a research center. Read more.

SENAI Mobile Schools

One of the novelties presented at this year's Analitica Latin America Expo was the unprecedented partnership with the National Industrial Learning Service – SENAI. An absolute hit with the public, nearly 700 visitors visited the trucks that housed the Mobile Schools of Nanotechnology and Industry 4.0. With this initiative, visitors and exhibitors were able to see how these mobile classrooms work and explore the equipment that students have access to.

SENAI's mobile schools offer short, customized courses for companies throughout the state of São Paulo. "The courses offered by SENAI are in areas of the future, both for the young people who come to us and for industry that needs skilled workers. Managers are already aware of the need to add digital transformation to industrial parks.", said Vinicius Ferreira, professor of Industry 4.0 at SENAI.

Nearly 700 visitors passed by the trucks with the Mobile Schools of Nanotechnology and Industry 4.0. Photo: ALA Press Office.

"Cromatografando"

Another new attraction to the 2023 edition of Analitica Latin America Expo was the presence of Miller Pulito Rufino, a chemist and specialist in liquid chromatography and founding partner of "Cromatografando". Rufino has more than 15,000 followers on Instagram and almost 6,000 subscribers on his YouTube channel, and he was very much in demand at the Expo. The content that Rufino posts on his social networks aims to make chromatography easier to understand. "About 600 people stopped by the booth to talk to me. I didn't expect that, it was amazing." said Rufino. In addition to interacting with visitors and answering their questions, Rufino also highlighted the main chromatography solutions on display at the Expo. This was a unique opportunity for those interested to observe the operation of many instruments.

Source: Analitica Latin America Press Office