

FEATURE

The 47th RASBQ discussed the theme “The Centrality of Chemistry in the Education of Citizens and in Scientific and Technological Innovation”

The 47th Annual Meeting of the Brazilian Chemical Society (RASBQ), held in Águas de Lindóia, SP, Brazil, from May 22 to 25, 2024, welcomed about 1,400 participants, including members, non-members, speakers, and exhibitors. The opening lecture of the event, presented by Prof. Dr. Aldo José G. Zarbin, from the Federal University of Paraná (UFPR), focused on the topic, “The surprising chemistry of nanomaterials: when a prefix makes all the difference”. In this lecture, some concepts of nanoscience and nanotechnology were presented in light of the results obtained in the 26 years of existence of the Materials Chemistry Group at the UFPR, which has been active since the advent of the nanomaterials field in Brazil.



Opening ceremony of the 47th RASBQ - Photo: SBQ 2024

Some highlights of the event program

For each RASBQ, the Board of the Brazilian Chemical Society (SBQ) organizes a symposium to discuss the theme of the meeting. This year, when the subject of the meeting was, “The Centrality of Chemistry in the Education of Citizens and in Scientific and Technological Innovation”, experts in different fields related to this theme were invited. Each guest was given 20 minutes to speak, followed by a debate with the audience.

The first guest was Dr. Barbara Vasconcellos da Silva, Associate Professor at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ) and Coordinator of the Professional Master's Degree in Chemistry in the National Network (PROFQUI) at the Institute of Chemistry, UFRJ. PROFQUI is a Professional Master's Degree in Chemistry that focuses on the continuous, qualified, and up-to-date training of teachers in basic education. "We invited Dr. Vasconcellos da Silva to discuss the importance of excellent training for chemistry teachers to educate citizens in the knowledge of this very central science, chemistry", explained Prof. Dr. Shirley Nakagaki Bastos (UFPR), President of the SBQ.

Prof. Fernando Galembeck, from the State University of Campinas (Unicamp), then gave a presentation entitled, "Revolutionary solutions to current challenges: The new chemistry of the 21st century", in which he presented the scientific discoveries that have driven human progress to date.

The next guest was the President of the Brazilian Chemical Industry Association (ABIQUM), Mr. Andre Passos, who highlighted the position of the Brazilian chemical industry and ABIQUIM as partners with academia to achieve technological advances that benefit the well-being of citizens and to disseminate new knowledge in chemistry throughout society.

To round off this rich symposium, Brazilian journalist and YouTuber Iberê Thenório was invited to talk about successful strategies for disseminating scientific knowledge, especially chemistry, to ordinary citizens to help them better understand the world around them in a simple and often very entertaining way.

Another highlight this year was the thematic session, "Plastic pollution: different perspectives, different solutions, a single crisis", coordinated by two experts in the field, Prof. Dr. Walter Ruggeri Waldman, from the Federal University of São Carlos (UFSCar) and Prof. Dr. Cassiana Carolina Montagner, from Unicamp. Guests included Camila Hubner Barcellos, MSc (Regulatory Affairs Manager at ABIQUIM), who presented the view of industry on plastic pollution and its solutions; Francisco Nelson de Almeida Linhares Junior (from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs), who presented the Brazilian government's view on plastic pollution and its solutions; and finally, Prof. Dr. Alexander Turra, professor at the Oceanographic Institute of the University of São Paulo and Coordinator of the UNESCO Chair on Ocean Sustainability, who spoke about the impact of plastic pollution, especially in aquatic environments.

Approximately 900 posters were presented this year. Poster sessions are the venues where undergraduate and graduate students present the results of their research. "Our poster sessions are always a great celebration of science. It's a time for debate and the search for new ideas, which the experts attending the event can engage in the informal conversation in front of the poster", explained Prof. Dr. Bastos.

The day before the opening of the 47th RASBQ, nine workshops on different topics were held. For more information, please visit: <https://www1.s bq.org.br/47ra/pagina/workshops.php>

The program of the 47th RASBQ also included workshops, thematic and coordinated sessions, conferences by national and international researchers, symposia, flash poster presentations, lectures by partner companies, SBQ in schools, sessions with similar societies such as the American Chemical Society and the Royal Society of Chemistry, not to mention the various award sessions. Forums were also held to discuss scientific policies related to chemistry and postgraduate studies in Brazil.

"Expectations for this edition of RASBQ were very high, as we had prepared a very rich, diverse, and high-quality scientific program. From what we heard from the participants, we believe that our expectations were met", said Prof. Dr. Bastos.

Text written by Lilian Freitas, BrJAC Publisher

Source: 47th RASBQ