

FEATURE

XIII Workshop on Sample Preparation

From June 18 to 20, 2024, the city of Piracicaba in the state of São Paulo, Brazil, hosted the 13th edition of the traditional Workshop on Sample Preparation (WPA). The event took place at the Luiz de Queiroz College of Agriculture (ESALQ/USP).

WPA-2024 brought together some of the world's leading experts in sample preparation for elemental analysis and spectrometric techniques. The program included conferences, mini-conferences, roundtables, and poster and flash presentations by congress participants, as well as various practical activities.

The WPA-2024 Organizing Committee consisted of Alex Virgilio from the Center for Nuclear Energy in Agriculture (CENA/USP), Ana Rita Nogueira from the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (Embrapa/CPPSE), Cassiana Nomura from the Institute of Chemistry/USP, and Fábio Rocha from CENA/USP.

On the first day of the event, Prof. Dr. Francisco J. Krug (CENA/USP) was honored in a ceremony attended by Ramon Murray Barnes (University of Massachusetts, Amherst, USA), Helmar Wiltsche (Technical University of Graz, Graz, Austria), Camillo Pirola (Milestone, Italy), Wilson Hernandez (Anacom, Brazil), José Roberto Ferreira (CENA/USP), Érico Marlon Moraes Flores (Federal University of Santa Maria), Márcia Messias da Silva (Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul), and Joaquim Araújo Nóbrega (Federal University of São Carlos), and representative of the Brazilian Journal of Analytical Chemistry (BrJAC).



BrJAC tribute to Prof. Dr. Krug. From left to right: Luciene Campos (BrJAC Advertiser), Prof. Dr. Krug and Prof. Dr. Érico M. M. Flores. Photo WPA

Prof. Krug was the creator of the Workshop on Sample Preparation and also the author of the book "Métodos de preparo de amostras para análise elementar" (Editors: Krug, F.J. and Rocha, F.R.P. Publisher: EDIT-SBQ. ISBN: 978-85-64099-22-7).

Prof. Krug worked as a researcher at CENA/USP between 1975 and 2023, and since 2005 as a full professor at the same institution. He was a level 1A researcher at the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq), indicating his high level of seniority and scientific leadership in his field. He has been a full member of the São Paulo State Academy of Sciences (ACIESP) since 2012. Throughout his career, he was honored with several prestigious awards, including the “Paschoal Senise” medal (2012), “Simão Matias” medal (2018), and “Adilson Curtius” medal (2022). Prof. Krug has published more than 200 scientific articles and has supervised 50 postgraduate students.



Opening lecture by Prof. Dr. Krug. Photo: WPA

After the tribute, Prof. Krug delivered a lecture titled, “Reminiscences of the Workshops on Sample Preparation.”

Conferences

WPA-2024 featured conferences by Prof. Ramon Barnes (University of Massachusetts, Amherst), Prof. Helmar Wiltsche (Graz University of Technology), Prof. Érico M. M. Flores (Federal University of Santa Maria), Prof. Márcia F. Mesko (Federal University of Pelotas), Prof. Fábio A. Duarte (Federal University of Santa Maria), Prof. Mário H. Gonzalez (São Paulo State University - UNESP), Prof. Leandro W. Hantao (University of Campinas), Prof. Marcia M. Silva (Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul), and Prof. Juliana Naozuka (Federal University of São Paulo).



Conferences held during the event. Photo: WPA

Sponsors' mini-conferences

WPA-2024 also featured mini-conferences held by the event's sponsors. Participants had the opportunity to attend the lectures: "Workflow optimization: Efficient strategies for sample preparation" by Nova Analytica and Milestone; "Direct solid sampling by LIBS/LA-ICP-MS: Avoiding the defeat of sample digestion" by dpUnion; "Microwaves beyond digestion" by Anton Paar; and "Experimental approaches with a focus on experiments involving Single-cell ICP-MS" by PerkinElmer.

About WPA

The Workshop on Sample Preparation (WPA) has been held since 1996, with biannual editions hosted by universities and research centers in different regions of Brazil. In 2024, the WPA celebrated its 28th anniversary. The event has always been attended by leading Brazilian and international experts in sample preparation, who present the latest innovations for preparing complex samples to researchers, academics, and other professionals from sectors such as clinical, food, environmental, steel, and chemical industries.



Participants during one of the practical activities at WPA-2024. Photo: WPA

The WPA aims to provide a forum for discussing advances in the field of sample preparation in order to solve analytical problems. The event traditionally includes both theoretical and practical activities, enabling participants to discuss concepts related to sample preparation and the application of new technologies. Participation in the WPA is limited to 120 participants.

Text written by Lilian Freitas, BrJAC Publisher

Source: [Workshop on Sample Preparation](#)