

FEATURE

8th Uruguayan Congress of Analytical Chemistry (CUQA 8)

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The Uruguayan Congress of Analytical Chemistry (CUQA) held its 8th edition from October 13–15, 2024, in Montevideo, Uruguay. The event was organized by researchers from the Faculty of Chemistry and the Faculty of Sciences of the Universidad de la República (UdelaR), together with the National Institute for Agricultural Research (INIA, Uruguay). Since its first edition in 2009, CUQA has traditionally taken place every two years. Notably, the 2012 edition was jointly organized with the 5th Ibero-American Congress of Analytical Chemistry (CIAQA). All editions have been hosted in Montevideo, a key destination in Latin America that offers visitors a rich cultural and recreational agenda, high-quality services, and beautiful urban and coastal landscapes. The city is widely recognized as an ideal venue for international scientific meetings.



Members of the Organizing Committee at the welcome ceremony of 8th CUQA.

The main goal of CUQA is to present and discuss the latest advances in Analytical Chemistry developed in Uruguay and across the region. The 8th edition featured a broad range of topics, 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. This year's meeting brought together approximately 200 participants from across the country, along with 20 international attendees from Argentina, Brazil, and Chile.

The scientific program comprised 10 sessions, including one pre-congress course, seven invited lectures, 11 oral presentations, 12 “shotgun” presentations, 75 poster contributions, and several social and networking activities. A highlight of the program was the panel discussion titled “Toward the Frontiers of Bioanalysis: The State of the Art of Omics Disciplines in Uruguay”, which gathered leading experts to address emerging trends and challenges in the field. The congress also offered a two-day exhibition for companies operating in the Analytical Chemistry sector in Uruguay. This provided a valuable opportunity for participants to interact with industry representatives and explore the latest technological developments and laboratory instrumentation. During the closing ceremony, six poster awards were presented to recognize outstanding scientific contributions.

The Organizing Committee expresses its sincere gratitude to all sponsors, whose support was essential for the successful organization of the event. Special thanks are extended to the Brazilian Journal of Analytical Chemistry (BrJAC) for offering a Special Issue dedicated to the 8th CUQA. This Special Issue features selected works presented at the 8th CUQA. The Guest Editors, Dr. Ignacio Machado and Dr. Lucía Pareja, thank all authors for submitting their contributions and all reviewers for generously sharing their time and expertise to ensure the high quality of this collection. Finally, the Committee acknowledges the valuable support of the Scientific Committee, the staff of the “José Luis Massera” Auditorium, and all participants who contributed to another successful edition of CUQA.



Closing ceremony of 8th CUQA.