

Europe Section Workshop Valuable to Food and Water Safety

A workshop on food and water safety at the University of Lisbon combined research and technology where 143 attendees from 20 countries (Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Estonia, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Kenya, Mozambique, The Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Serbia, Sweden, and United Kingdom) participated in what was called a success in contributing value to food and water control safety issues. Organized by the AOAC Europe Section, the workshop "Enforcement of European Legislation on Food and Water: Analytical and Toxicological Aspects" was held in Lisbon, Portugal, April 17–18, 2008, in collaboration with the Portuguese Pharmaceutical Society.

The workshop featured presentations related to food and water safety issues from experts in the field, including:

- European legislation on food and water (Leif Busk, European Food Safety Authority)
- Difficulties in implementing EU legislation in Portugal (Luis Simas, Portuguese Water Regulation Authority)
- Food safety versus risk analysis (Popi Kanari, SGL, Cyprus, president of the Europe Section)
- Food and water: toxicological aspects (Celeste Lino, Coimbra University, Portugal)
- Screening versus confirmatory methods (in the

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field of drug residues by Bruno le Bizec, Laberca, France, and mycotoxins by Joerg Stroka, EC-JRC-IRMM, Belgium)

- Quality assurance and accreditation (Máire C. Walsh)
- Analytical challenges in toxins analysis (Jana Hajslova, ICT, Czech Republic)
- Crisis management (legal aspects by Graça Mariano, ASAE, Portugal; from an industry perspective by Paula Fonseca, Danone, Portugal; from a laboratory perspective by Jorge Barbosa, LNIV, Portugal)
- Authentication of herbal ingredients in natural products: TLC versus HPLC (Klaus Reif, Phytolab, Germany)
- Emerging issues (Bert Popping, Eurofins, UK)

In addition, 90 poster presentations (breakdown in parentheses) featured topics on analysis of contaminants and residues (20); botanical

and dietary supplements (5); detection and measurement of natural toxins (5); emerging issues in food safety and security (8); food, fertilizers, and related agricultural topics (2); food nutrition and food allergens (12); general analytical methods (19); microbiological methods (4); quality assurance and accreditation (6); and toxicological methods (9).

The following posters were selected by the Scientific Committee for oral presentation:

- Simultaneous determination of 10 mycotoxins in crude extracts of grains by LC/MS/MS (Herrmann Schmalstieg, SGS, Germany)
- Comparison of three microbial screening methods for antibiotic residues using routine monitoring samples (Mariël G. Pikkemaat, RIKILT, The Netherlands)
- Sodium salicylate reacts with paraquat to form stable complexes: A possible contribution for

the healing effect of this drug (Paula Guedes, REQUIMTE, Portugal)

- Using the MRM catalog of liquid software to quickly build custom LC/MS/MS methods for pesticide analysis matching the new Japanese Positive List (Detlev Schleuder, Applied Biosystems, Germany)
- Quality aspects of nutrient analysis methods applied to Food Composition Databanks (Isabel Castanheira, INSA, Portugal)
- Biodegradation study of 17- β -estradiol and 17- α -ethinylestradiol in activated sludge and microbial consortium (Ana Rita Ribeiro, ICSS-N, Portugal)
- Occurrence of fluoroquinolone antibiotics in hospital and municipal wastewaters in Coimbra, Portugal (Angelina Pena, Coimbra University, Portugal)

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Latin American-Caribbean Section Revitalized

“We are excited that the Section is active and working again,”

—MARIA CRISTINA FERNANDEZ, UNIVERSITY OF BUENOS AIRES, SECRETARY OF THE LATIN AMERICAN-CARIBBEAN SECTION

In an effort to reinvigorate the Latin American-Caribbean Section, members have elected a new executive board (see sidebar) and are planning for the Section's next meeting in April 2010.

“We are excited that the Section is active and working again,” said Maria Cristina Fernandez, University of Buenos Aires, secretary of the Latin American-Caribbean Section. “Our goals include increasing scientific research and knowledge in quantitative and qualitative analyses, contributing to the health of the region's population, and facilitating trade in Latin

America and other parts of the world.”

The Section is interested in official analytical methods for raw materials and finished products of significance to the region, and for the benefit of public health, the environment, and international trade. Efforts also include examining the current situation of the region to exchange ideas and begin organizing training courses and other events relevant to the Section.

Members agree that communication is key to an active Section. Thus, to continue to move the work of the Section forward, members will provide the platform for improving

communications among analytical scientists in Latin America and the rest of the world. It is also agreed that the foods and feed industry, human and animal health industries, and global environmental sustainability are areas of interest in which the Latin American-Caribbean Section can explore opportunities where analytical

methods are needed. As of January 20, 2009, the Latin American-Caribbean Section has completed the first step to enhance communications. Check out the Section's new Web page at www.aoac-latina.com.ar. ■

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Latin American-Caribbean Section Announces New Board Officers

Congratulations to the following new board officers of the Latin American-Caribbean Section's Executive Committee, who were elected in September 2008 at the Section's business meeting in Dallas, Texas, USA:

President: **Juan Carlos Medina**, Nutek S.A. de C.V., Mexico

President-Elect: **Nuri Gras**, Labser, Ltda., Chile

Secretary: **Maria Cristina Fernandez**, University of Buenos Aires, National Administration of Food, Drug, and Medical Technology, Argentina

Treasurer: **Rodrigo Granja**, Microbóticos, Brazil

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A. Sanches-Silva, C. Andre, J.M. Cruz, S. Pastorelli, I. Castanheira, and P. Paseiro-Losada, a research team from the Portuguese Institute of Public Health and the Santiago de Compostela Pharmacy Faculty, Spain, received the Best Poster Award for “Study of the migration of photoinitiators used in printed food packaging materials into food stimulants.” The winner will receive complementary registration, airfare, and travel expenses to the next AOAC

Europe Section workshop in Paris later this year.

Conclusion

The food and water safety workshop spurred high levels of discussion, including understanding European legislation, the challenges of enforcing legislation, toxicological aspects, and much more. Input from participants showed that the workshop successfully contributed value to food and water control safety issues. In particular, participants indicated that the topic of reinforcing

European legislation, namely its interpretation and application, was relevant.

The next meeting of the Europe Section, scheduled for fall/winter 2009 in Paris, will focus on new developments in LC/MS/UPLC/MS techniques in food analyses. For more information, contact Margreet Lauwaars at lauwaars@telfort.nl or Tel: +31-318-418725. Not a member of your local Section? Contact Liz Cribbin, program manager, Sections Program, at lcribbin@aoac.org and join now. For more

information, be sure to check out “Sections” on the AOAC Web site at www.aoac.org or see the Sections calendar on page 56 of this issue. ■

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