

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**, Nutec 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

Europe Section Workshop

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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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