

The 49th Annual Florida Pesticide Residue Workshop

ABSTRACT: The papers in this special issue of *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry* were originally presented at the 49th annual Florida Pesticide Residue Workshop (FPRW). The FPRW is an annual meeting for scientists specializing in trace level analysis of pesticides, veterinary drug residues, and other chemical contaminants in food, animal feed, and environmental samples.

The Florida Pesticide Residue Workshop (FPRW) is an important conference for scientists interested in trace level analysis of pesticides, veterinary drug residues, and other chemical contaminants in food, animal feed, and environmental samples. The 49th Annual FPRW was held July 15–18, 2012, in St. Pete Beach, FL, at the TradeWinds Island Grand Resort. FLAG Works, Inc., a nonprofit organization, sponsored the meeting in cooperation with the American Chemical Society (via the AGRO Division) to help plan and coordinate the event. The purpose of the meeting is to provide training, develop and improve technical knowledge, facilitate development and distribution of new analysis methods and techniques, and establish networking to promote professional cooperation between scientists with these interests. The meeting this year had a record number of attendees (~350) representing scientists from government, academia, and industries. Although the majority of attendees are from North America, attendance of scientists from Asia, Europe, South America, Australia, and Africa is increasing annually. This year, 17 nationalities were represented in the program. Many vendors help sponsor this workshop by participating in the Exhibit Hall (with over 40 vendor booths this year), providing seminars, and contributing poster presentations.

The opening session of the 2012 FPRW focused on current topics in residue analysis. The first talk featured Gwendolyn Wyard of the Organic Trade Association, who gave the group an excellent overview of the pesticide residue testing requirements under the U.S. National Organic Program. Other talks in this session included the potential role of metabolomics in residue analysis by Dr. Robert Trengove of Murdoch University in Australia, an update on arsenic speciation in food products by Dr. Douglas Heitkemper of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and a joint talk by two state chemists, Ping Wan of Indiana and Dr. Steven Moser of Oklahoma, on the recent crisis brought about by the unintended effects of a herbicide, aminocyclopyrachlor, on trees across the United States. In addition to oral sessions focusing on new methods of analysis for pesticide and veterinary drug residues, other symposia included

- Global Trade Issues/International Monitoring
- Southern U.S. State Laboratories Report Their Chemical Residue Activities: Doing More with Less
- Residues in the Environment
- Mega Methods and High-Resolution MS Data

One of the goals of the FPRW is always to encourage interaction between scientists. Therefore, in addition to these oral symposia, FPRW has emphasized participation in poster sessions over the past few years. This year over 100 posters

were presented in the Exhibit Hall, and three morning sessions were held to give the attendees a chance to review all of the posters and talk to the presenting authors. Several interactive discussion sessions were also included in the 2012 workshop including a round table for FDA and state chemists on Sunday afternoon. This was the first time this forum was included at FPRW, and it was attended by approximately 50 state and federal chemists. Practical issues such as sharing methodology, documentation of violative results, and strategies for preparing large standard mixtures were discussed by the group. In addition, the MS forum moderated by Dr. Walter Hammack of the Florida Department of Agriculture is always a highlight of the FPRW. This year's MS forum included a lively group discussion of the issues related to analytical methods using mass spectrometry, especially the challenges associated with the evaluation of high-resolution data. Finally, a two day short course "Interpretation of MS/MS spectra generated by LC/MS" was taught the weekend before FPRW by Professor O. David Sparkman and was highly regarded by the scientists that attended.

In addition to fostering communication between scientists, another objective of the FPRW is to highlight new analytical technology and trends in the area of residue analysis. Some highlights of new technologies that were presented in oral presentations or posters this year include the use of ion mobility mass spectrometry, laser-induced breakdown spectroscopy, multidimensional chromatography, and sorptive extraction. There continues to be a great interest in the development of rapid procedures for sample preparation, including modifications of the QuEChERS method. The challenges associated with screening methods that include large numbers of chemical residues were also popular themes in presentations at FPRW this year. A number of presentations and posters described the use of high-resolution mass spectrometry, using both time-of-flight and orbitrap MS platforms, for residue analysis. The expanding scope of the meeting beyond pesticide residues was also evident in presentations that focused on veterinary drug residues, mycotoxins, and seafood toxins. Several posters focused on issues associated with juice safety, including the analysis of carbendazim and other fungicides. The papers included in this special section of the *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry* are a good representation of the trends and expanding scope of the FPRW.

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Next year, the FPRW will officially become the “North American Chemical Residue Workshop” (NACRW) to reflect the diversification of the conference to many types of chemical residues. In addition, 2013 also represents the 50th annual meeting of this workshop. There will be special events and sessions planned to celebrate the historic accomplishments of this conference even as we prepare for the future success of the workshop as it continues to grow. Please plan to join us July 21–24, 2013, at the TradeWinds in St. Pete Beach, FL, for the NACRW/FPRW!

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Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.