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Foreword

This year the Seventh Symposium on the Chemistry and Fate of Modern Pesticides took place in the US, at the University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS (14–16 September 1999). The symposium series was initiated in 1986 by the International Association of Environmental Analytical Chemistry (IAEAC) and on this occasion it was jointly organised by the University of Kansas, the US Geological Survey and the US Department of Agriculture. For the first time since 1986, the symposium took place in the US. All previous symposia were held in Europe.

The meeting was attended by ca. 150 participants from countries all over the world, and there was a high representation of the different offices of the US Geological Services. The scientific program comprised of 47 lectures and 70 poster presentations. The program was divided into 11 platform-presentations covering topics related to different aspects of pesticides, from the development of analytical methods to surveillance programs in sediments, surface- and ground water and rainfall, bioavailability of pesticides, and ecotoxicological aspects and hydrogeological modelling of pesticides. Biological techniques applied to pesticide monitoring were also

included, like novel ELISA methods and the use of direct optical immunosensors for pesticide detection in surface waters. Migration and degradation studies of pesticides in aquifers and fate studies in different US aquifers were also presented.

The papers in this special issue do not represent a comprehensive review of the topics of the symposium, but are a selection of recent developments of sample handling, chromatography and mass spectrometry in this particular field. All participants agreed that it was a successful meeting and we would like to express our gratitude especially to Betty Scribner from USGS, to all the secretariat from the University of Kansas, and to Marianne Frei for running the symposium so smoothly.

It is our pleasure to announce that the next meeting will be held during the last week of August 2000 in Copenhagen (Denmark) with Arne Helweg as chairman.

Lawrence, KS
Lawrence, KS

D. Barceló
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