

## Foreword

ExTech 2004, the *Sixth International Symposium on Advances in Extraction Technologies*, took place at the UFZ Centre for Environmental Research in Leipzig, on 6–8 September 2004. This symposium was organized by Dr. P. Popp and colleagues from the UFZ. The preceding five ExTech meetings took place in Waterloo, Canada (1999 and 2000, organized by Professor J. Pawliszyn), Barcelona, Spain (2001, organized by Dr. J. Bayona), Paris, France (2002, organized by Professor M.-C. Hennion) and St. Pete Beach, FL, USA (2003, organized by Professor A. Malik).

ExTech is a symposium series highlighting new extraction technologies for chemical and biochemical analysis in laboratory and on-site settings. The general focus is on solvent-free sample preparation including methods for rapid and selective enrichment prior to analysis and micro-sample preparation.

The focus of the sixth ExTech meeting was especially on passive sampling methods and on the use of molecular imprinted polymers, biologically modified sorbents, novel coatings and sorbent materials. Furthermore, advances in membrane extraction techniques and a broad range of new applications of extraction techniques were presented and discussed. The symposium was attended by ca. 100 participants from many countries all over the world, with the active participation of several companies.

The scientific programme included 34 lectures and 57 poster presentations. Among the highlighted topics were: (a) advanced extraction materials and techniques; (b) membrane assisted extraction; (c) new applications of extraction techniques, and (d) passive sampling methods. During the three days, the interaction between participants and the discussion on both oral and poster presentation were very fruitful.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank members of the Scientific Committee for their valuable advice and help and the sponsors of this meeting for their support. The organisation of the ExTech 2004 would not have been possible without the strong day-to-day support from Dr. A. Paschke and the members of my group. My particular thanks go to them. Special words of appreciation go to Elsevier for this undertaking to produce a special, peer-reviewed issue of the *Journal of Chromatography A*.

The next, seventh ExTech meeting will be organized by Professor F. Augusto at the State University of Campinas, Sao Paulo, Brazil ([www.extech2005.iqm.unicamp.br](http://www.extech2005.iqm.unicamp.br)) from 13–15 November 2005. The 8th ExTech will be held in York, UK from 6–8 February 2006.

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