

## *Preface*

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The fourth CBRATEC (IV Congresso Brasileiro de Análise Térmica e Calorimetria) conference joined with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Panamerican Conference on Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry (II Congresso Pan-americano de Análise Térmica e Calorimetria) was held between April 11-14, 2004 in Poços de Caldas, MG. One third of the 300 participants were graduates and PhD students well representing the continuous interest in thermal analysis among Brazil researchers.

The structure of the conference was characteristic and refreshing, since every morning one of the leading Brazil thermoanalysts held an opened teaching course especially for the representatives of the young generation then plenary lecturers and keynote speakers (S. Vyazovkin, A. Riga, M. Jaroniec, R. Blaine, E. Kapsch) occupied the podium. The afternoon sessions consisted of mainly short lectures and poster exhibitions; both provided excellent possibility for the PhD students to introduce their scientific work.

The scope of the conference covered practically all aspects of thermal analysis.

I feel very honoured to be able to follow the progress and development of the conferences since 1998, when the 1<sup>st</sup> CBRATEC conference was organized. In my opinion, the participation of the young scientists and the organization of teaching courses for them have determining importance. As far as I experienced, the universities pay continuously increasing attention to foreign language education (first of all English), so the communication between the invited international researchers, the representatives of the Instrument companies and the domestic conference attendants became much more efficient in recent years.

As usual, the new Executive Committee was elected during the conference. Prof. Antonio Gouveia de Souza was re-elected as President of ABRATEC supported by the members of the Executive (Lucildes Pita Mercuri, Eder Tadeu Gomes Cavalheiro, Fernando Luis Fertoni, Carlos Braga, Marcelo Zangrando e Elisa Osaki) for the following two years.

In recognition of their outstanding achievements in the work of ABRATEC Honourable Membership was presented to Prof. Lazaro Moscardini d'Assunção, and Prof. Antonio Gouveia de Souza, the first Presidents of ABRATEC by the Thermoanalytical Sub-Branch of the Hungarian Chemical Society during the opening ceremony.

The scientific development and activity in thermoanalytical research that have taken place in Brazil is one of the reasons, why they won the right of organizing of the next ICTAC conference in 2008. Knowing the tiny city, the hospitality of the local people, nobody will be disappointed who visits Poços de Caldas in 2008.

*Csaba Novák*  
Editor

*Acknowledgements*

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