



Preface

The 15th International Conference on Flow Injection Analysis including Related Techniques was held at the Nagoya Garden Palace Hotel in Nagoya, Japan, September 28–October 3, 2008. The conference has been held in cooperation with the Japanese Association for Flow Injection Analysis (JAFIA) since 1995. This was also the joint meeting with JAFIA, and celebrated the 25th Anniversary of JAFIA. All of the ICFA colleagues felt the 15th ICFA was excellent, academic, informal, relaxed and friendly throughout, as were the past ICFIAs; such a good atmosphere depends on the warm and natural personality of Professor Gary D. Christian (University of Washington, USA). He recommended such a joint meeting as the conference can promote the cooperation on flow-based techniques between the members of JAFIA and worldwide participants of ICFA. The ICFA 2008 was hosted by Tadao Sakai, Professor of Aichi Institute of Technology (President of JAFIA), and Shoji Motomizu, Professor of Okayama University (Past President of JAFIA). There were 195 participants from 19 countries: USA, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Czech Republic, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Thailand, Iraq, Spain, India, Iran, Taiwan, Finland, South Korea, China, and Japan. Among these, there were the largest number of attendees from Thailand (24) and Portugal (14), except for Japan. The program consisted of five invited lectures, 39 oral presentations and 121 poster presentations on flow injection and related techniques with spectrometric, kinetic and enzymatic, sample treatment, separation with SPE, microflow systems and advances in instrumentation and hyphenated flow technologies highlighted. On the opening lecture by Gary D. Christian, the pictorial history of ICFA from 1989 and of the joint meeting with JAFIA in 1995 was given. Tadao Sakai gave a lecture on a detailed history of JAFIA founded on January 1st 1984. Purnendu Dasgupta (University of Texas at Arlington) presented "Ionis. An ionic diode behaves as an electrolyte generator and a charge detector". Yoshinobu Baba (Nagoya University) presented "Microfluidics for single biomolecular and single cellular analysis". And in the closing lecture, Victor Cerda (University of the Balearic Islands) presented "Combined use of flow techniques with chromatographies". Poster presentations included spectrometry, luminescence, atomic spectrometry, electrochemical detectors, applications to environ-

mental, pharmaceutical, biological and agricultural samples with automation, sequential injection analysis, chromatography, multipumping systems and microfluidic reactors. And, GL Sciences Inc., Kyoritsu Chemical-Check Lab., Ltd., Ogawa & Co., Ltd., Soma Optics Co., Ltd., Mitsubishi and Chemical Analytech Co., Ltd., and FIALab instruments (USA) exhibited new instruments for detection, separation and preconcentration. Poster Awards for students were programmed to encourage the next generation: 10 students (Russia, Japan, China, Thailand, and Portugal) were selected for awards.

JAFIA commended several FIA researchers for their excellent contributions to the FIA community; three kinds of awards, the FIA Award for younger researchers (2), the FIA Award for Science (8) and the FIA Honor Award for Science (11), were awarded with medals and certificates.

This special issue represents 36 peer reviewed papers submitted by conference attendees. They provide an excellent cross-section of research on instrumentation, methodology and applications of flow-based techniques. You can see two reports on the 15th ICFA in *TrAC* 28 (2009) 131 by Gary D. Christian and also in *J. Flow Injection Anal.*, vol. 25, no.2 (2008) 190 by Petr Solich (Charles University, Czech Republic).

The next 16th ICFA will be held in Thailand in 2010, and will be hosted by a group of the Thai Association for Flow Based Analysis.

Tadao Sakai*

*Department of Applied Chemistry, Aichi Institute of Technology,
1247 Yachigusa, Yakusa-cho, Toyota 470-0392, Japan*

Shoji Motomizu

*Department of Chemistry, Okayama University, 3-1-1,
Tsushima-naka, Okayama 700-8530, Japan*

* Corresponding author.

*E-mail addresses: tadsakai@aitech.ac.jp (T. Sakai),
motomizu@cc.okayama-u.ac.jp (S. Motomizu)*

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