

**2nd Romanian International Conference on Analytical Chemistry (SCAR 2002),
Timisoara, Romania, September 19-21, 2002**

Romania has a strong history of analytical chemistry. Following the fall of the communist regime on December 25, 1989, it became possible to hold international conferences in the country. The 1st Romanian International Conference on Analytical Chemistry was held in 2000 in Brasov, the birthplace of Professor George-Emil Baiulescu. This second conference was held to highlight current analytical chemistry in Romania, as well as to introduce Romanian analytical chemists, especially students, to some analytical chemistry research by established analytical chemists in the USA and Europe. It consisted of plenary lectures in the morning and poster presentations in the afternoon.

The conference was organized by the *Societatea de Chimie Analitica din Romania* (SCAR 2002) and was sponsored by the Division of Analytical Chemistry of the Federation of European Chemical Societies (DAC/FECS). It was organized by Professor Baiulescu, President of the Romanian Society of Analytical Chemistry, and his colleague, Lecturer Anca-Iulia Stoica, from the University of Bucharest, and was hosted by the West University of Timisoara and the Institute of Chemistry of Timisoara of the Romanian Academy of Science. It was dedicated to the 85th birthday of the pioneering Romanian analytical chemist, Professor Dumitru Ceausescu.

The conference opened with remarks by Professors Baiulescu, Adrian Chiriac (Prorector of the West University of Timisoara), and Mircea Mracec (Director of the Institute of Chemistry of Timisoara of the Romanian Academy). Anca-Iulia Stoica presented the opening plenary lecture, on Environmental Analytical Chemistry in Romania, stressing the importance of sampling. Professor Charles Lochmüller, Duke University, USA, described the challenge of enantiomer resolution by chromatography, presenting the development of bonded silica phases for chiral separations. Professor Bogdan Zygmunt, Technical University of Gdansk, Poland, discussed the preparation of environmental samples for gas chromatographic determination of selected organic pollutants. He emphasized the complexity of sample composition, and described the

enrichment of analytes using denudization, passive sampling, dynamic sampling, and solid-phase microextraction.

On the second day, Professor Gary Christian, University of Washington, USA, presented the use of flow methods such as flow injection, sequential injection, and electroinjection for enhancing analytical chemistry measurements, including bioanalysis, ion chromatography, and capillary electrophoresis. Professor Erno Pungor from Hungary was scheduled to give a lecture on the past and future of analytical chemistry, but was called to a Ministers meeting at the last moment. So Professor Baiulescu, who at age 71 has the energy of a 40-year old, gave an impromptu presentation of the past and present status of analytical chemistry in Romania. Speakers were presented with a booklet prepared by Professor Dumitru Ceausescu on Romanian Contributions in Analytical Chemistry, discussing and listing 551 publications from 1870-1944, and 1,419 from 1945-1969. A booklet on the life of Professor Baiulescu prepared by Anca-Iulia Stoica on the occasion of his 70th birthday points out that “all his activity in science is coordinated by one idea: to improve the quality of analytical chemistry in Romania”, as was evidenced by his arranging this conference.

The plenary lectures concluded with a presentation on modern electroanalytical methods in environmental analysis by Dr. Jiri Barek, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic, president of the Division of Analytical Chemistry of the Czech Chemical Society. He presented an overview of history of polarography on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of its invention by professor Heyrovsky and then he talked about the application of non-traditional electrode materials (boron doped diamond films, solid amalgams and glassy carbon pastes) in voltammetry of environmentally important biologically active substances.



Invited speakers at SCAR 02 from left: Dr. Jiri Barek (Czech Republic), Prof. Gary Christian (USA), Prof. Bogdan Zygmunt (Poland), Prof. George Baiulescu (Romania) and Prof. Charles Lochmüller (USA)

The poster sessions consisted of 44 posters on separations, electrometric methods, spectrometric methods, and miscellaneous methods, all by Romanian scientists, many of them students. Best poster awards in the two sessions were presented to students Olimpia-Hinamatsuri Ionescu for the University of Art, Bucharest (Analytical Characterization of Old Painting from Romania) and Doina Bogdea, University of Craiova (Modern Methods of Analyzing the Pictorial Coat XVIIth-XIXth Century's Churches from Romania).

On Saturday after the formal presentations, conferees were treated to an excursion to Poiana Marului in the Carpathian mountains where the afternoon was spent discussing analytical chemistry over fine Romanian food and drink.

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