

**Report on the 3rd International Conference on Instrumental Methods of Analysis
IMA'2003
Modern Trends and Applications, 23–27 September 2003, Thessaloniki, Greece**

The 3rd International Conference on Instrumental Methods of Analysis: Modern Trends and Applications was held in 2003 in Thessaloniki, the capital of Macedonia, Greece, and second largest city of Greece, established in 316 BC.

The conference was organized by the Laboratory of Analytical Chemistry of the Department of Chemistry of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, with John Stratis as Chairman, and with co organisers from the Analytical Chemistry Laboratories of all Greek Universities (Athens, Ioannina, Patras, Crete), and the Laboratory of Inorganic and Analytical Chemistry of the Department of Chemical Engineering of the National Technical University of Athens.

The conference was held in cooperation with the Division of Analytical Chemistry (DAC) of the Federation of European Chemical Societies (FECS) whose annual committee and member meetings preceded the conference on 20 and 21 September 2003 the Chemistry Department.

The scientific program of the conference covered almost all aspects of modern trends and applications in instrumental methods of analysis with scientific sessions focused on atomic spectrometry, spectrophotometric techniques and chemometrics, flow and sequential injection analysis, gas and liquid chromatography, mass spectrometry and hyphenated techniques, as well as bio and electroanalytical techniques, sensors and biosensors.

The conference was well attended with 270 participants from 24 countries enjoying the overwhelming Greek hospitality. The scientific program consisted of two inaugural plenary keynote lectures, 12 invited plenary lectures, 40 oral presentations, and more than 200 poster presentations.

The opening ceremony was held in the Amphitheatre "Panagiotopoulos" of the Civil Engineering Department of the Polytechnic Faculty of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. J. Antonopoulos, Rector of Aristotle University, gave opening addresses. This was followed by the first plenary keynote lecture by J. F. van Staden with the title "The CDA system: a new frontier in analytical science". The second inaugural plenary keynote lecture was given by Richard Evershed, from the Organic Geochemistry Unit at the University of Bristol in the UK, on the role of mass spectrometry and ancillary techniques in providing molecular and isotopic signals for human prehistory.

The organisers would like to express thanks to the DAC/FECS for giving support to and contributing to the success of the Conference.

The Chairman of the Conference

Prof. John Stratis