



Foreword

The *5th Workshop on Biosensors and Biological Techniques in Environmental Analysis* was held at Cornell University in Ithaca, NY, USA from 31 May to 4 June 2002. This conference, under the aegis of the International Association of Environmental Analytical Chemistry and Cornell University (IAEAC), was planned to provide a forum for scientists in all areas of environmental analytical chemistry to discuss the latest developments in this field as well as the related areas of microanalytical biosensors, micrototal analysis systems, environmental bioanalysis, affinity-based biosensors, new amplification strategies, and flow injection-based systems.

This conference was the fifth of a series of workshops organized by IAEAC. Previous biosensor workshops were held in Paris, France in 1994; in Lund, Sweden in 1996; in Las Vegas, NV, USA in 1998; and in Mao, Menorca, Spain in 1999. These meetings provide an opportunity for scientists in all areas of environmental analytical chemistry to discuss special analytical techniques of common interest.

The conference itself was a tremendous success with 125 participants attending from 25 countries and six continents. The lectures and posters reported on many new and exciting developments in this field, and several of the papers from the conference appear as a special section of this issue of *Analytica Chimica Acta*.

In addition to the formal lecture and poster sessions, ample opportunity was provided for informal discussion among the participants during the social activities at Niagara Falls, a Finger Lakes winery tour and an evening barbecue at Taughannock Falls.

The next conference in this series, the *6th Workshop on Biosensors and BioAnalytical μ Techniques for Environmental and Clinical Analysis*, is scheduled for 8–12 October 2004 in Rome, Italy (for details see <http://www.biosensing.net/iaeac/workshop.html>). Based on advances in the biosensor field, the focus will be expanded to include microtechniques and also clinical analyses. With the great success of this conference as well as previous workshops and their stimulation of scientific discussions and collaborations, we look forward with anticipation to the next conference in Rome.

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