

Prof. *H. Michael Widmer* was not only director of research and promoter of projects but also a scientist and a pedagogue anxious to communicate the results of research and development to other analytical chemists. In 1992, within the Analytical Chemistry Section of the New Swiss Chemical Society and in cooperation with Dr. *A. Manz* he formed an association between European Universities and Enterprises to encourage the transfer of latest analytical chemistry researches to the 'field work' laboratories. They named this association as A.C.T.I.V.E. and invited Prof. *W. Haerdi* to become the coordinator in the University of Geneva. ACTIVE built up links beyond just training (education) as apart from making aware of the up to date analytical chemistry instrumentation, under the impetus of *H.M. Widmer* and *W. Haerdi*, it also favours human resources and allows professionals to exchange and construct new European experience.

After starting its initial activities under the European programme COMETT, ACTIVE is carrying on its activities in the new EC programme LEONARDO DA VINCI. To be able to participate in EC programmes, it had to change its status since Switzerland who participated in these as a member of AELE was no longer eligible. For pursuing their activities, ACTIVE joined the DAC (Division of Ana-

lytical Chemistry) of FECS with a representative in its Committee and from Geneva, its registred office was shifted to the French Geneva Campus of Archamps with a legal French Status. Its scientific committee comprised of members from France, Germany, England, Spain, Portugal and Switzerland, and Prof. *H.M. Widmer* served as President.

Under the auspices of COMETT (1992-95), ACTIVE, organized 8 programmes in advanced continuous training in Analytical Chemistry under the scientific coordination of Prof. *W. Giger*. These were conducted in Greece, Italy, Netherlands, England and France. It awarded 58 grants for students placement and exchanges of scientific staff.

Under the aegis of LEONARDO DA VINCI (1996-97), ACTIVE is organizing 11 sessions of training courses in Analytical Chemistry in 6 European countries, providing 2 grants for exchange of scientific staff. It organized a European Science Multimedia forum and is now cooperating in the organization of the 28th International Symposium on Environmental Analytical Chemistry 1998 with IAEAC and the University of Geneva.

In accordance to the wishes of Prof. *H.M. Widmer* and his Committee, ACTIVE provides and gives information in the field of basic and continuous educations. It promotes contacts between re-

*Chimia* 51 (1997) 805

© Neue Schweizerische Chemische Gesellschaft  
ISSN 0009-4293

searchers and specialists in the field, provides openings for continuous training and placement of trainees (students and researchers). It prepares manuscripts related to practical and theoretical syllabus for training programmes jointly with its European partners.

*H.M. Widmer* was a scientist with a profound knowledge whose contributions to our association are highly appreciated and thanked for. But he was also a very nice, friendly and emphatic person who cared about the farewell of his friends and colleagues.

We thank him for his dedication for the cause of Analytical Chemistry, for his work and great interest and his friendly way. He will be missed and remembered by his friends.

F. Rosset-Buffe  
p.o. the Scientific and Executive Boards  
A.C.T.I.V.E. (Analytical Chemistry  
Transfer by Industrial Visits and  
Education)  
Further Information:  
Internet: <http://www.unige.ch/active>



ACTIVE Executive Board (2nd from the left: Prof. H.M. Widmer)