

ANALYTICA 98

Chimia 52 (1998) 72
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ISSN 0009-4293

16th International Trade Fair and Analytica Conference for Analysis, Laboratory Technology, Diagnostics, and Biotechnology

Munich, April 21–24, 1998
(<http://www.analytica.de>)

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Analytica 98 in Munich, a conference and exhibition on analytical chemistry, laboratory techniques, diagnostics, and biotechnology, is the leading analytical conference and exhibition in Europe. It is comparable in size to Pittcon. In 1996, 31 700 visitors attended the Analytica. 960 Booths and a total of 1016 companies contributed to the success of the exhibition. In comparison, *ca.* 34 000 visitors attended the 47th Pittcon in March 1996, and 1101 booths were advertised in the conference guide. Nevertheless, Pittcon is definitely a larger affair, with 1347 lectures in 18 parallel sessions according to the conference programme. At this year's **Analytica 98**, there will be 9 parallel sessions taking place over 3 1/2 days. Unlike Pittcon, the areas *biotechnology*, *microbiology and cell biology*, and *medical diagnostics* are well represented in both the list of exhibitors and the conference programme.

Traditional conferences, such as **Analytica 98**, the 16th biennial analytical conference and exhibition, are a means of

bridging the communication gap between science and industry. To what extent conferences will serve to bridge the communication gap to the wider society, remains to be seen. The 'downward spiral as a consequence of the exodus of new technologies from Europe' was claimed in a report on the conference of the Brussels-based European Chemical Industry Council (CEPIC) [1]. The Nobel-Prize winner, *R. Ernst* was cited in [1] to stress 'the need to bridge the gap between science and society, and the need to halt the exodus of new technologies from Europe'.

The organizers of **Analytica 98** try to anticipate these trends by changing the face of the show. This year, the conference and exhibition will be located in the 'Neue Messe' in Munich, which provides a total of 60 000 m² area for the exhibition area. Each of the six exhibition halls is 11 000 m². Each booth will be within a maximum distance of 6 m from access to the communication network, which is equipped with ATM/SDH broadband lines providing 622 megabit baud rate.

The **Conference Programme** also reflects new trends in the various analytical disciplines. The 'Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker' (GDCh, *H. tom Dieck*) is the main organizer of the conference, and has arranged seven parallel sessions in order to allow insights into novelties and new trends in general analytical chemistry. In

addition, the 'Gesellschaft für Biochemie und Molekularbiologie' (GMB, *W. Neupert*) is the organizer of a parallel session on gene expression, RNA technology, protein engineering, plant biotechnology, and bioelectronics for applications in fields such as food technology and medicine during the 3 1/2 days of the conference. *D. Seidel*, 'Institut für Klinische Chemie', University of Munich, is running another parallel session on medical diagnostics, involving molecular technologies, molecular genetics, novel methods and instruments, immunodeficiency, cellular diagnostics, political aspects as well as a one-day advanced course in hematology.

Novelties and trends in general analytical chemistry include the areas of separation sciences (*e.g.*, electrochromatography, HPLC, DCS, chiral separations), sampling and sample preparation, process control, various spectroscopic methods, chemical sensors, biosensors and antibody engineering, screening techniques and mobile instruments, pharmaceutical and toxicological analysis, analysis in combinatorial and parallel chemistry, chemometrics and computational chemistry, quality assessment and accreditation. Some topics will be run under a typical label, such as 'Lab on Chip', 'Single Molecule Spectroscopy', 'Single Molecule Detection', '*In vivo* Biosensors', and 'A3-Advanced Aquatic Analysis'. The label usually refers to the group organizing the session.

The topics chosen for **Analytica 98** should include something of interest for all of the 22% chemists which assign themselves to be primarily involved in analytical chemistry [2]. Therefore, **Analytica 98** will be contributing to 'the scientific and educational infrastructure, which supports the European chemical industry, and represents one of Europe's most valuable intellectual and economic assets' (*C. Wagnière* [1]). By participating in the conference and exhibition, the visitor will demonstrate that he is part of a community that is taking seriously its responsibility to influence future developments in Europe in a positive way.

Received: January 13, 1998

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