

EDITORIAL



ILMAC, a Mirror of the Changes in Chemistry

After the conclusion of the ILMAC 99, the ILMAC management (Messe Basel and New Swiss Chemical Society) were able to report on four successful decades of the ILMAC.

Chemical Laboratory and **Chemical Manufacturing** were the core sectors of the ILMAC in the early years. These core sectors have remained key areas of the ILMAC up to the present day and will continue to make an important contribution to the ILMAC in the future.

In 1995 ILMAC reviewed its longterm strategy to define its position in the market of European Chemistry trade fairs. Consequently, it was decided that the new and emerging areas of **Biotechnology**, **Analytcs** and **Diagnostics** would be included as core sectors. A successful start was made with their formal **introduction** in the ILMAC 96 and their results in 1999 were a clear confirmation of a realistic assessment of the market.

The successful combination of the modern sectors with the classical ILMAC sectors led to a review of the cycle of innovation, and, as a result, the ILMAC management decided to change the ILMAC cycle from three years to two years in the future. As a consequence, **the next ILMAC will be in the year 2001**. It remains for the ILMAC management to convince their longterm customers of the benefits of the new 2-year period for the ILMAC.

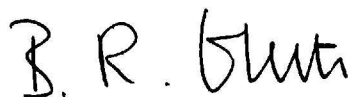
The evolution of the ILMAC from a regional event into an international event was achieved primarily in the nineties by combining the ILMAC trade fair with a **scientific congress of international standard and focus**. Today's ILMAC Congress is organized by the Sections of the **New Swiss Chemical Society**. The present issue of CHIMIA is a comprehensive review of the ILMAC 99 Congress activities.

In their statistics, the organizing board of the ILMAC 99 Congress reports a total of 5000 participants in all seminars. These scientists obviously also visited the ILMAC trade fair. A more detailed study of the expectations and opinions of the congress participants will shortly be made available. This study will be the base for the organizers of the ILMAC 01 Congress.

The Chairman of the ILMAC Committee has two objectives when reviewing ILMAC 99:

- Firstly, the position and the success of ILMAC within the dense market of European Chemistry trade fairs must be analyzed and assessed. The number and areas of the **exhibitors** stands are considered to be within budget, however, there is a clear trend to consolidation. As far as the **visitors** to the ILMAC are concerned, the net result can be interpreted as follows: The number of daily tickets sold has decreased since 1996, however, important companies with a continuous presence at the ILMAC have reported a clear increase in quality of their visitors and they are equally positive in interpreting the business volume generated by these visits. A questionnaire was filled in by visitors and exhibitors of the ILMAC; the conclusions are expected in the near future and will form the guidelines for the ILMAC 01.
- The second objective of the ILMAC 99 summary should be a review of the most important **products**, **services** and **congress proceedings** to ensure a sustainable documentation of the ILMAC 99 highlights. While some media have already reported on outstanding products and services presented at ILMAC 99, it is now the objective of the present issue of CHIMIA to document the ILMAC Congress as a whole. This documentation will not only honor the authors but also build the scientific bridge towards ILMAC 01.

Both the Messe Basel and the New Swiss Chemical Society are strongly committed to a successful ILMAC in 2001. They are looking forward to meeting once again the readers of CHIMIA in Basel at the same time of year in 2001.



Dr. Bernhard R. Glutz
Chairman of the ILMAC Committee