

EDITORIAL

VI International Workshop on Pollutants in the Environment

Dear readers,

The Radioisotope Laboratory Eduardo Penna Franca (RLEPF) of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro has been studying environment pollution for more than 60 years, providing unprecedented and fundamental data on trace elements, legacy and emergent pollutants in biotic and abiotic matrices from north to south and along the Brazilian coast, as well as from the Antarctic region. It is also the first Brazilian laboratory to study the interactions between pollution and human health. With more than 350 papers, 22 book chapters, hundreds of master's degree dissertations and doctoral thesis published the RLEPF professors and students represent one of the most prominent Brazilian research groups.

All those results would not have been possible without the RLEPF main philosophy of open doors welcoming students, partnerships and profound desire of public awareness and education.

This philosophy led to the promotion of International Workshops on Pollutants in the Environment (IWPE) since 1994, with the main objectives of promoting the interchange between Brazilian and foreign researchers, leading to the establishment of international partnerships, and promoting an environment propitious for students to have direct contact with renowned researchers, enabling the opportunity to seek future postgraduate exchanges. These partnerships provide a dynamic flow of ideas and knowledge, fundamental to maintaining the high quality of the studies and results obtained.

The 6th IWPE was promoted in 2017 to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the laboratory and to maintain its tradition of pursuit for excellence. The event took place between 4 and

7 July 2017 at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. The event was attended by 25 speakers from Brazil, Chile, Czech Republic, Germany, Taiwan, China, United Kingdom, Spain, USA, France and Suriname, that presented 22 lectures, a round table and 10 short-courses.

The event received 132 entries. The public was composed of undergraduate students (29), postgraduate students (49), researchers (24) and professors (30). Among the Brazilian public enrolled, 89% were from the state of Rio de Janeiro and 11% from different regions of Brazil (Campo Grande, Cuiabá, Manaus, Fortaleza, São Paulo, Florianópolis, Londrina and Santa Maria).

Among the participants were representatives of the most diverse sectors such as: biophysics, ecology, biology, chemistry, oceanography, engineering, collective health, geochemistry, agricultural engineering, pharmacy, nanotechnology, biochemistry, marine biotechnology, veterinary, solid waste, pathology and marine biology.

A total of 42 papers were submitted, of which 9 were selected for oral presentation and 33 were presented in poster form. The speakers were invited to evaluate the three best oral presentations and the three best posters that were granted the Wolfgang Christian Pfeiffer Award.

All abstracts of lectures, short-courses, oral presentations and posters were published in the annals of the VI International Workshop on Pollutants in the Environment and are available for download at the event's website (<https://radioisotoposufRJ.wixsite.com/iwpe/abstracts-and-registration>).

Here, we invite you to read the papers from the IWPE seventh edition. This special issue

celebrates the 20th anniversary of the IWPE and brings together scientific contributions dedicated to current studies in the field of environmental pollution. There are studies about trace elements in seabirds, banana leaves, Amazon fish and water supply. Pesticides are evaluated in human hair and fish. The water quality of beaches is also discussed. Papers report researches conducted at pristine environments as well as industrial areas, including the river basin of Rio Doce, recently affected by Brazil's worst environmental accident, a tailings dam collapse. The use of transplant experiments and plankton as a tool for pollutant assessments is also evaluated. The issue also includes review papers about pyrethroid, antibiotics and metallothionein metabolism.

Another important aspect of this commemoration issue is to create a clear link between the objective of the research presented and how it relates to environmental health and ultimately to human wellbeing.

We hope you appreciate this issue and that it will be very useful.

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