

## **17<sup>th</sup> ICCE -International Conference on Chemistry and the Environment-: 5 days for Academia-industry-govern institutions information exchange.**

From 16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> June 2019, in Thessaloniki, Greece was held the **17<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Chemistry and the Environment**. An important international event, which according to the records, was held with more than 500 participants from more than 70 countries. The conference covered a wide range of topics connecting chemistry and the environment. The first day, Sunday, four satellite events focused on soil pesticides, water reuse, glyphosate, and scientific writing and publication. Unfortunately, there were parallel events, so it was impossible to attend all of them. However, I had the opportunity to attend two of them, quite interesting and very connected with some research I am working on, so it was quite enriching.

Oral presentations and posters started on Monday. Two main topics that were analytical chemistry and analysis of target contaminants and suspect screening based on chromatography and high resolution spectrometry were the most predominant on that day. Combining these two topics with their importance in the environment, Professor Susan Richardson of the University of South Carolina, USA, presented an interesting state of the art about the research that has been carried out and the results obtained in the analysis of wastewater and drinking water. Professor Richardson works closely with experts in the field such as Professor Thernes (from the Federal Institute of Hydrology, Koblenz, Germany), Professor Barceló (Institute of Environmental Assessment and Water Research, IDAEA, Barcelona Spain and the Catalan Institute for Water Research, ICRA, Girona, Spain), among others. During her presentation, Dr. Richardson spoke about the broad spectrum of pollutants that are present in wastewater. She also explained why treatments in wastewater treatment plants are not fully effective in removing or transforming all contaminants. She presented some works that she carried with her research group as pollutants of the type of illicit drugs, pharmaceuticals, DBPS, 1,4-dioxane, per and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Among the case studies that Dr. Richardson commented on illicit drugs, she commented on an interesting study in American schools analyzing wastewater for detection of drug consumption and also commented on how the monitoring of wastewater showed changes in consumption trends during the economic crisis in some regions, because is clear the change of consumption of expensive illicit drugs and increased the use of cheaper ones. During the same day, my talk entitled: *Fast method for the extraction, clean-up and quantification of human pharmaceuticals residues in biological samples using USE and d-SPE followed by LC-QToFMS analysis in SWATH™ mode*, supported with a scholarship of the **Spanish Society of Chromatography and Related Techniques, SECyTA** was presented.

During the second day of talks, two main topics covered most of the sessions: micropollutants and microplastics in the aquatic environment and air pollution-chemistry and health risks. In addition to that, on this second day, a gala dinner was organized by the congress. A beautiful evening with typical Greek food: *papoutsakia*, *horiatiki*, *musaka* among others. To accompany, live traditional Greek music that ended in the tradition of Greek group dances and the breaking of the plates. This event was quite nice because not everything is about the conferences. The congresses intend to connect you with different cultures, cities and other life environments.

The third day of conferences was mainly focused on the topic of oxidation and advanced oxidation processes in water and wastewater treatment and an innovative session as a panel discussion by some journal editors. The idea of this panel discussion was to present essential information about publishing articles in peer reviewed journals, and the revision process: was an interactive session, where the public could formulate their questions

and commentaries about the publications processes. The editors were replying the questions according their own journal and point of view. It was an interesting session with many tips, information and global observation about the publishing procedure. As a journal editors, researchers well known in the chemistry field, were present: **Dr. Susan Richardson** (University of South Carolina, U.S. EPA, United States, Journal: *Environmental Science & Technology*), **Dr. Philippe Garrigues** (Institut des Sciences Moléculaires, Université Bordeaux, France, *Editor in Chief, Environmental Science and Pollution Research & Analytical and Bioanalytical Chemistry*); **Dr. Adrian Covaci** (University of Antwerp, Belgium, Journal: *Environment International & Science of the Total Environment*); **Dr. Athanasios Katsoyiannis** (Joint Research Centre of the European Commission, Ispra, Italy, Journal: *Environmental Research*); **Dr. Dionysios Dionysiou** (University of Cincinnati, USA Journal: *Chemical Engineering Journal & Journal of Environmental Engineering*).

During the conference, some sponsors of the international congress had some talks; this was the case of Sciex, Thermo Fisher scientific, Bayer, and Bruker. They presented their last commercial instruments and software for research and quality control analysis. The importance of the presence of these commercial sponsors during the conference gave the opportunity to talk directly about research, get feedback each other, looking for new solutions for everyday lab problems, and simultaneously, talk about new projects, products and so on.

The last and final day, had as main topics Green and Sustainable Chemistry and also University Education in Environmental Sciences with a final ceremony with a recognition of best oral presentation and best poster presentation with a final and nice invitation to the next **ICCE in Italy in June 2021**. After this 5 days of full immersion in conferences, posters, and social interaction with colleagues from all around the world, I am very happy to have had the opportunity to participate in this nice and enrichment event, and because of that, last but not the least, I want to acknowledge **SECyTA** for the travel support and the opportunity to attend the ICCE 2019.

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