Editorial

XVI-SIBEE: The XVI Brazilian Symposium of Electrochemistry and Electroanalytical Chemistry

From the XVIII century to nowadays, an incredible growth of interest in Electrochemistry has occurred, both in their scope and diversification, evolving to an inter and multi-disciplinary approach. Due to these aspects, it is very common to find electrochemical instrumentation in laboratories devoted to different specialities, such as, environmental, biochemical, clinical, pharmaceutical, physical, material, chemical, etc. The dramatic expansion of this area has produced tendencies that simultaneously force us to take on major risks, but also offers us a unique opportunity to expand to areas practically unexplored by Electrochemistry, universalizing and enriching our knowledge. Now major challenge may be to integrate an eclectic community in a symposium of Electrochemistry and Electroanalytical Chemistry without altering the fundamental concepts of electrochemistry. This could be easily achieved if we were capable of focusing on the themes of our meetings in order to deal with all the particularities of the different research areas where electrochemistry has an important role, always aiming to maintain scientific rigor. Since our symposium has already reached a degree of scientific and organizational excellence, now focus must be directed to promote the interaction between participants taking into account their diversity and inducing the researchers to joint as partners to face challenges, allowing the development of inter and multi- disciplinary works, increasing the electrochemistry contribution to the progress of the whole science.

Since 1978, the Brazilian Symposium of Electrochemistry and Electroanalytical Chemistry (SIBEE) has had biannual editions held in different places such as: Águas de Lindóia-SP, Araraquara-SP, Campinas-SP, Gramado-RS, Londrina-PR, Maragogi-AL, Ribeirão Preto-SP, São Carlos-SP, São Paulo-SP e Teresópolis-RJ, under the sponsorship of various research and teaching institutions. In the latest SIBEE editions, it was observed not only an increment of the number of participants but also, the represented Institutions and a growing number of research subjects, showing a wide scope of SIBEE, as consequence. This special number of the ***Journal of the Brazilian Chemical Society*** (***JBCS***) publishes a selection of the works presented and discussed in the XVI SIBEE, using its traditional per review system of assessment. XVI SIBEE was promoted by the Institutes of Chemistry, Physics and the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering from Universidade Estadual de Campinas, and also by Universidade de São Francisco, held from April 15th to 19th, 2007 in Águas de Lindóia-SP. This national symposium was attended by 478 participants coming from 56 different institutions (universities, industries and research institutes). During the event 378 works were presented as follow: 167 in oral form, assembled in 34 coordinated sections, 211 as posters, organized in three different sections. In addition, 32 invited talks and eight plenary lectures were ministered by scientifically recognized researchers. The works presented had the excellent quality standard that is traditional to the symposium, showing great diversity: from traditional themes, such as, corrosion, undergoing through energy storage and conversion, photovoltaic cells, ionic liquids, bio-electrochemistry, sensors, biosensors, environmental electrochemistry, membranes and redox reactions of pharmaceutical interest molecules, clearly showing the wide universe of Electrochemistry in Brazil. The discussion and the information exchanges have been encouraged by the organization, being the critical evaluation of the presented works, the base of a fair and stimulating award session to young talents.

Due to the reached maturity, the essential aim will be the maintenance of the brand and the interest of researchers from different areas, working in Electrochemistry. Nevertheless, this goal could be apparently simple, it will be necessary to awake the enthusiasm and imagination on the next generations of researchers linked to Electrochemistry and Electroanalytical Chemistry. Addressing these issues can be a way to induce a constant evolution of this field, and as consequence, Science as a whole in our Country. Taking into account the diversity and wide scope of SIBEE, matching the different interests of the participants to raise a cooperative effect will be the challenge of the organizers of the forthcoming symposia.

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