



XXIX Latin American Congress of Chemistry

This special issue of the Journal of the Brazilian Chemical Society is dedicated to the XXIX Latin American Congress of Chemistry CLAQ 2010, held in the city of Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, from September 27th to October 1st, 2010. This event has been an activity of the *Federación Latinoamericana de Asociaciones Químicas-FLAQ*,¹ organized by the following institutions: ASQUIMCO,² the *Sociedad Colombiana de Ciencias Químicas-SCCQ*,³ the *Universidad de Cartagena*⁴ and the *Universidad Nacional de Colombia*.⁵

The presence of scientists from several continents and the collaboration from institutions, such as the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry-IUPAC, the Royal Society of Chemistry-RSC,⁶ the American Chemical Society-ACS⁷ and the Brazilian Chemistry Society-SBQ,⁸ were important for the success of the event, which had as central themes matters of great interest for the Latin American and Caribbean communities, as, for example, the sustainable use of natural resources and sustainability.

The support of a great number of Colombian institutions (ACCEFYN,⁹ CPQ,¹⁰ UIS¹¹ and the *Universidad de los Andes*¹²), volunteers and chemistry professionals provided efficient logistics, enabling the participation of more than 2500 people (including students from Cartagena high schools), the presentation of 54 conferences and over a thousand scientific papers presented as posters.

The interaction among partner societies has promoted important meetings, such as the FLAQ and the IUPAC's CHEMRAWN¹³ Committee meetings as well as the symposia:

ACS's "Inspiring the Chemists of Tomorrow"¹⁴ and SBQ/RSC's "Biodiversity and Ecosystems, the Role of the Chemical Sciences".¹⁵ Such activities made it possible to identify common problems, as well as to speed up the cooperation among Latin American and Caribbean scientists.

The organization of this JBCS special issue proves the quality of the discussions and of the papers presented during the CLAQ 2010, involving authors from several nationalities. It is a valuable effort so that we can understand the real importance of academic events, such as the CLAQ 2010, which surpass the time and space in which they take place. The 21 articles that make up this special issue deal with themes of great relevance, such as Natural Products Chemistry, Nanotechnology, Organic Synthesis, Physical Chemistry, Analytical Chemistry, Inorganic Chemistry, Electrochemistry, Theoretic Chemistry, Biofuels and Quimiometry (PCA or RSA).

The Editors hope that this CLAQ special issue brings continuity to the common efforts of both the scientists and the institutions that support this issue in order to foster the birth of research cooperation nets that go beyond the borders of their countries and strengthen the Latin American and Caribbean chemistry more and more.

We hope to find ourselves in the CLAQ 2012 (October 27th to 31st, Cancún-Mexico).¹⁶

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