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Preface

TIAFT 2009 special edition of *Forensic Science International*

The 47th conference of The International Association of Forensic Toxicologists (TIAFT) had a resounding success in Geneva from 23–27 August 2009. The venue was the International Conference Center located near the UNO building and a short distance away from the lake. TIAFT had already met twice in Switzerland (Zürich and Luzern) before and it was a challenge for the organisers that combined the University of Geneva, the University of Lausanne as well as the Competence Center in Chemistry and Analytical Toxicology (CCCTA – in French) to meet up to past expectations. The organisers prepared both an exciting and demanding scientific programme and workshops for over 500 participants as well as a varied and successful social program. Twenty-four exhibitors sponsored the meeting and presented their most advanced developments in booths that helped participants prepare for their wishlists and budgets!

Marc Augsburger and Christian Staub, from the French-speaking Center of Forensic Medicine, co-chaired the organising committee with the help and support from TIAFT and its president, Professor Olaf Drummer, associate editor for toxicology of Forensic Science International. This committee prepared a structured and balanced meeting with highly specialised workshops on “LC–MS”, “Illicit Drug Profiling” and “Drugs and Driving” by outstanding scientists in those fields followed by 4 days with 90 oral presentations, over 150 posters as well as 13 invited lectures. One of the most promising aspect of the meeting was the turn-out of young scientists (over 80 attended a Young Scientist meeting on Sunday, prior to the main meeting) of which 39 submitted research results competing for the best presentation (Iuko Iwata (Japan),

best posters (Aline Staub, Switzerland and separately Jennifer Pascali, Italy) and best published paper awards (Sophie Turfus, UK) of TIAFT. Other awards were distributed to Vina Spiehler (USA), recipient of the Alan Curry Award for her contribution to the field of toxicology and to the TIAFT organisation, and to Robert Kronstrand (Sweden) who received the TIAFT Achievement Award for his outstanding achievements in forensic toxicology.

The conference covered developments in doping analysis and control, drugs of abuse testing and profiling, analysis of metabolites, natural product toxicology, therapeutic drug monitoring, alternative matrices, post-mortem toxicology, clinical toxicology, chemometry and data treatment as well as alcohol and drugs and driving.

Over 20 papers were submitted for this special issue of Forensic Science International and went through standard peer-reviews, unlike many other conference papers. Finally, 13 were accepted and make this special issue, looking at specific forensic science issues related to toxicology. I thank authors for their submissions and the reviewers who, for some, contributed to review three or four papers in record time to achieve the content of this special issue.

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