

The 43rd IUPAC World Chemistry Congress was held from July 31 to August 5, 2011 in San Juan, Puerto Rico, hosted for the first time in a Latin American country. This conference was one of the outstanding events of the International Year of Chemistry. Seven Nobel Laureates in Chemistry and other distinguished scientists were joined by Colegio de Químicos de Puerto Rico to offer a magnificent opportunity to students and young scientists to stimulate their capacities and show the amazing breakthroughs and challenges of our discipline. Among the thirty-four invited symposia, Prof. Paulino Tuñón-Blanco was offered to organize the "Electrochemical Biosensors Symposium" aimed at all subjects within the field of Electroanalysis with special emphasis on biological and biomimetic receptors for biomedical, pharmaceutical, environmental and food science electroanalysis as well as novel materials and nanostructures for electrochemical devices. This one-day symposium, sponsored by ISE, was divided into two sessions. The morning session was chaired by Prof. J. Barek from Charles University in Prague (Czech Republic) and started with a keynote lecture by Prof. K.W. Plaxco from University of California Santa Barbara, who mastered about electrochemical DNA sensors and derivatives. The afternoon session was chaired by Prof. C. Brett from Coimbra University (Portugal) and former ISE president, and started with the keynote lecture of Prof. A. Ewing from University of Gothenburg (Sweden), who brilliantly pushed the analytical limits for the amperometric detection of molecules during exocytosis. The other 10 oral presentations dealt with different aspects of DNA and nanostructured sensors for clinical and food science applications, mercury amalgams for carcinogens and nanofluidic biosensors. South Africa, South and North America and Europe were well represented in the symposium, which was completed with a poster session due to the lack of slot time for more oral presentations. The tropical and relaxing atmosphere was conducive to open discussion about electroanalysis.

We would like to ISE for sponsoring the symposium and the Organizing Committee for giving me the opportunity to hold this event within the World Chemistry Congress in "La isla del Encanto". The excellent organization, the kindness of Puertorican people and the first rate scientific program made the long trip very worthwhile.

Prof. Paulino Tuñón-Blanco

Organizer of the Electrochemical Biosensors Symposium

Universidad de Oviedo (Spain)