



## **4<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Recent Advances in Food Analysis (RAFA 2009)**

Prague, Czech Republic; 4-6 November 2009

*By Martin Rose, FERA*

In line with the previous RAFA conferences the focus of RAFA 2009 was on “recent advanced analytical and bioanalytical technologies and emerging food related applications“. The meeting was hosted by the Institute of Chemical Technology, Prague (ICT Prague, Czech Republic), RIKILT – Institute of Food Safety (Wageningen, the Netherlands) and the International Association of Environmental Analytical Chemistry (IAEAC, Allschwil, Switzerland). The main conference topics included:

- Residues and contaminants,
- Authenticity, traceability, fraud,
- Flavours and odours,
- Processing and packaging contaminants,
- Mycotoxins, marine and plant toxins,
- Allergens, (this session was sponsored by MoniQA)
- Genetically modified organisms (GMO’s),
- Nanoparticles,
- Novel foods, nutritional supplements, organic food,
- QA/QC and chemometrics in food analysis.

The last RAFA meeting in 2007 was attended by 380 scientists but the success and popularity of the conference meant that there were over 500 participants this year.

### **MoniQA Presence**

#### **1. Satellite Events**

The conference programme was accompanied by several satellite events such as the TRACE workshop on “**Determining the geographical origin of food - trace elements and isotopic patterns in food verification**” (November 3).

Many MoniQA partners also participate in the TRACE project and the event was well attended. TRACE will come to an end in December this year and details of the MoniQA WG on Authenticity were presented as a possible vehicle for TRACE project partners to continue some of their work interests – contact Dr Marina Carcea ([carcea@inran.it](mailto:carcea@inran.it)) for details.

Also on November 3, 2009 there was a Workshop on “**Future challenges in integration of young scientists into the EU research activities**“. The Workshop was organised jointly by MoniQA partner the EC Joint Research Centre, Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements (JRC - IRMM), along with the Technology



Centre of Academy of Science of the Czech Republic (TC AS CR), the Institute of Chemical Technology, Prague (ICT Prague) and RIKILT – Institute of Food Safety.

There were also various vendor seminars introducing recent instrumentation and products for food control.

## **2. Main conference**

The MoniQA sponsored session on allergens, entitled “**Allergens – The Analytical Challenge to Meet Legislative Requirements and Consumer Demands**” was organised by Bert Popping and brought together a jam-packed audience to discuss these issues

Additionally, Martin Rose gave a presentation on ‘**Research Methods, Analytical Criteria and Standard Methods: Help or Hindrance?**

Furthermore there were many interesting poster contributions from MoniQA partners.