

## **Opening address**

**by Dr Majda Zorec Karlovšek, TIAFT2006 chairperson**

Mr President, Dr Pascal Kintz, Dear Chairpersons,  
Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Colleagues, Friends and Guests,

As president of the organising committee, I am honoured to greet everyone who has joined us here in Linhart Hall at the Cankarjev Dom Conference Centre.

In 2001 in Prague, it was decided that the 44<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Association of Forensic Toxicologists would be held in Ljubljana. Since then much has changed. In 2004, Slovenia, which is celebrating its 15-year anniversary of independence, became a member of the European Union and in 2008 will be taking over EU chairmanship. Consequently, just like a young bride, our country is getting ready for the great event. Those of you who visited before 2008 were greeted with numerous, newly-opened and not-yet-completed buildings. Anyway, consider this a symbol of our hope for a better future, our efforts for the development and promotion of the country we love.

The year 2006 is not an ordinary year. It represents the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first toxicological analysis undertaken at the Institute for Forensic Medicine in Ljubljana. Slovenian forensic toxicology started strongly under the guidance of Prof. Janez Milčinski, the head of the Institute, and his associates, Prof. Ladislav Kosta, Dr Tatjana Robljek and Dr Vladimir Zelenko. This toxicological laboratory has for a long time been the only institution in Slovenia performing analyses connected with acute poisonings, chemical accidents and fires, exposure to chemical agents at work, and the effects of psychotropic substances in criminal offences and road and workplace safety. Without their efforts, many important contributions which we now rely on would not have been achieved. Therefore, I firstly and most kindly welcome Dr Vladimir Zelenko, my co-worker, teacher and friend.

I am honoured, on this occasion and while celebrating our anniversary, to be able to greet representatives of the Slovenian political community, science and profession.

I am really pleased and at the same time very proud that there are so many colleagues – toxicologists and worldwide known experts attending this meeting. Welcome in Slovenia, welcome in Ljubljana.

I am very sorry to say that I cannot greet Dr Břetislav Smisel today, who helped me become a member of this association. I admired his devotedness to forensic toxicology and his sense for connecting technology and art.

Prof. Irving Sunshine is also not here with us. When I asked him last year in Seoul if we may invite him to the meeting in Ljubljana, he said: "Why wouldn't I come to Ljubljana?"

However, considering my age, I cannot say that for certain." I only met Professor Sunshine at two congresses: in Seoul and a year earlier in Washington. I was happy to listen to his recollections relating to the milestones of modern forensic toxicology. In addition to Randalt and Baselt, his editions were considered golden rules of good laboratory practice for all toxicologists of my generation.

When, after I was notified of his passing away, I read again his book "Was It a Poisoning? The Forensic Toxicologists are Searching for Answers", and realized that he was not only a great person, a great toxicologist, an editor, but also wrote biographies of many important toxicologists. And about Professor Machata, His book reads:

"Even today, if you are at a prestigious meeting of toxicologists anywhere in the world, the probability that Gottfried will be there is very high."

And today he is among us: Professor Gottfried Machata.

I also came across the following: »As a consequence of all these activities, many honours have been awarded to Dr Machata starting with the Widmark Award of the International Council on Alcohol, Drugs and Traffic Safety, the Fritz Pregl Award of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, and the Golden Merit Award of the Austrian Republic, to mention only a few he has received."

Professor Machata: Welcome to the land and town where Nobel Prize Winner Fritz Pregl was born. The facsimile of his book, *Kvantitativna Organska Mikroanaliza* (Quantitative Organic Microanalysis), with the accompanying studies and his bibliography, is a modest gift and an expression of gratitude of TIAFT2006 organizing committee for your honouring us with your presence and at the same time our compliments on your life jubilee.

All my life and work connected to forensic toxicology was always accompanied by devices supplied by the company known today as Agilent. They reliably helped me in many moments of decision-making; therefore, I am glad to inform you that Agilent has joined our anniversary and the TIAFT2006 meeting as the main sponsor. I am certain that the quality of their products and presentations will impress us and that, on this occasion, they have proved that they are our best partners and friends.

My special thanks also go to our silver sponsor, Dade Behring, to Slovenian Research Agency and Slovenian Institute for Health Assurance. I would also like to thank the other sponsors and exhibitors who have made sure that our meeting will be more interesting and enjoyable.

My best wishes to all participants especially to authors and presenters for their successful work and for a pleasant stay in Ljubljana!

Dr Majda Zorec Karlovšek

WAS IT A  
POISONING?

FORENSIC TOXICOLOGISTS  
SEARCHING FOR ANSWERS

IRVING SUNSHINE, EDITOR



FITZ PREGL  
DIE QUANTITATIVE  
ORGANISCHE  
MIKROANALYSE

KVANTITATIVNA  
ORGANSKA  
MIKROANALIZA

*Fritz Pregl*

Prevedeno iz njemačkog jezika i opremljeno dodatcima  
Dimitrije Pavlović, Beograd, 1928.