

Editorial: Carrying on... with a special focus on WCSB7

With this issue *TOS forum* carries on its role as the designated *communication forum* for the world community of samplers. In addition to scientific papers, this issue has a particular focus on the 7th World Conference on Sampling and Blending (WCSB7), 10–12 June 2015, in Bordeaux. This issue also carries opinion pieces intended to further and facilitate debate amongst samplers all over the world, certainly not least at WCSB7. It is perhaps not necessary to iterate (but the editor does it anyway) that this platform is open for all kinds of contributions, opinion pieces (formal, informal) and other reflections on issues and events. There is a whole *forum* out there which only has the possibility to hear it from you at two-year intervals, but why not tell us “now”...

It is with distinct pleasure the editor can introduce this fourth issue. There is a full spread of articles and features:

- Francis Pitard continues his journey into “A simpler system of dimensions and units”
- Gaathier Mahed concludes his mini-series with “Development of a sampling protocol for radioactive elements in fractured rock aquifers”
- Romañach and Esbensen take *TOS* to the pharmaceutical industry (surprisingly for the first time)
- We bring a response to an earlier critique of the HGCA grain sampling guide
- Opinion pieces abound in this issue, viz. Bongarcon and Pitard/Esbensen/Paoletti
- Gearing up for WCSB7, you will find in here the complete list of submitted abstracts, from which you can appreciate that all is well regarding the interest from around the world to present results and developments to the conference of all samplers worldwide. A total of 56 abstracts were received, all of which were carefully assessed and graded by the scientific committee. Only one was rejected at this stage, the rest were partitioned into two categories dependent on the accumulated scores from the 12 committee members, which led to 30 contributions

rated for oral presentation and some 16 to be presented as posters.

- The sole reason for bringing this comprehensive list of abstracts is for the world community of samplers, and indeed everyone engaged in sampling in science, technology and industry is to offer all the information you need to decide on attending the 7th World Conference on Sampling and Blending (WCSB7), which we hope very much. Welcome to WCSB7!

It has been an interesting two-year journey since the launching of *TOS forum*. Lessons have already been well learned, i.e. that four issues between conferences is just about right. It is a welcome experience that there has been no shortage of papers, reports, PhD summaries etc. While *TOS forum* in its present form makes no pretention to be a full-fledged, peer-reviewed scientific journal, this steady influx of papers points to an easy need for communicating results and ideas to our community between publishing in proper scientific journals, as many of us also do. These are but a few manifestations of a continuing satisfactory development of the *organised* interactions between samplers. It has also been learned that our community, while happy to receive a free copy of *TOS forum*, is apparently not (yet) ready to contemplate taking out a subscription for this facility across the full board of current recipients. This was indeed foreseen, and so it is necessary to provide one or two more years of service to our community before we may hope to sway this attitude—it is certainly worth a try! Which just makes it all the more important to locate and garner the interest of major (and minor) companies in which the importance of proper, representative sampling is recognised, of OEM companies or consultancies for supporting the very reasonable *TOS forum* production costs against effective community-wide advertising possibilities. Again—it is certainly worth a try! The editor and the publisher have decided to forge ahead with this endeavour and will report again at WCSB8. Meanwhile—we hope to see as many as possible of you in Bordeaux!

A group of samplers, regulators and educators met in Nov. 2014 to write a Special Guest Editor Section of the *AOAC Journal*. Terminology harmonisation is notoriously difficult across well established disciplines. The background for the “resolution” attempt depicted on the this issue’s frontpage can be found on p. 12.



Be part of the next issue of *TOS forum*!

We welcome contributions to *TOS forum*: articles, letters, comment, news or news of PhD projects for the PhD Presentations column.

TOS forum Editor, Kim Esbensen, would be pleased to discuss any ideas you may have and to receive your contributions.

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TOS forum will be available on subscription in 2015. Visit www.imppublications.com/tos-forum for details.

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