

Presentation of EuChemS-DAC Sample Preparation Study Group and Network

The **DAC-EuChemS Sample Preparation Study Group and Network** was established in 2019 under the auspices of the Division of Analytical Chemistry of the European Chemical Society (EuChemS). It initially started as a “Task Force”, however the Division of Analytical Chemistry of EuChemS (<https://www.euchems.eu/divisions/analytical-chemistry/>) unanimously upgraded it to a “Study Group”, after the annual evaluation due to its remarkable activity. The study groups are dedicated to important topics of particular importance for EuChemS-DAC, and «Sample Preparation» is now one of the eight Study Groups in this field. This scientific network is headed by Professor Eleftheria Psillakis from the Technical University of Crete and currently has members from 30 countries in Europe, America, Asia and Australia working in academia, research institutes, industry and private laboratories.

The aim of the network is the promotion of the science of sample preparation, the facilitation of the exchange of information between research teams, the facilitation of collaborations, the linking of research with innovation, the support of young scientists and the organization of scientific activities. More specifically, the group aims:

- i. ***to facilitate communication, information exchange and networking***
- ii. ***to promote fundamental studies and interdisciplinary cooperation,***
- iii. ***to promote innovation and entrepreneurship*** through the organization of short workshops and/or presentations on innovation and entrepreneurship, as well as articles in scientific journals
- iv. ***to promote the participation of young researchers:*** Joining the team and active participation of early-stage researchers (first four years of research career including doctorate) and early-stage investigators (up to 8 years from the date of obtaining the doctorate) in various events and actions.

All of these goals can be achieved through a range of activities, one of which is the organization of related sessions at EuChemS conferences. At the same time, a series of new conferences have been launched that will provide a vital tool for the exchange of information and ideas in both theoretical and experimental concepts, thus allowing maximum visibility and transparency of the diverse European research. This series of conferences will be a flagship European event for the dissemination of new ideas in this field.

This year, the 1st European Sample Preparation e-Conference, was successfully organized online (<https://www.sampleprep.tuc.gr/en/activities/european-sampleprep-conference>), 11-12 March 2021.

The EuChemS-DAC Study Group on Sample Preparation has also organized courses on sample preparation to provide practical training in various techniques. At the same time, it has supported 35 publications and 14 special issues in the most well-known scientific journals of this field.

This year, it has been decided to set an annual theme, which will act as a guide for organizing activities. For 2021, the annual theme is «**Green Sample Preparation**», and it is dedicated to its promotion.

To achieve all these ambitious goals, several European experts were invited as members of the Network Committee and the participation of prominent non-European experts was also anticipated, allowing transparency and dissemination of the European efforts. The members of the network encourage cooperation with other scientific fields in order to transfer and disseminate knowledge. In addition, new specialized forums have been created in analytical scientific magazines, such as *The Analytical Scientist*, which will host articles describing general theoretical, experimental, and "green" aspects of methods, as well as practical applications.

An important goal of the EuChemS-DAC Sample Prep Study Group and Network is to strengthen the link between academia and the private sector that will serve as a hub for the exchange of information.

The core members of the Study Group are: Prof. Elia Psillakis (Head), Prof. Slavica Ražić (University of Belgrade, Serbia), Prof. Manuel Miro (University of the Balearic Island, Spain), Prof. Stig Pedersen-Bjergaard (University of Oslo, Norway), Prof. Marcela Alves Segundo (University of Porto, Portugal), Prof. Charlotta Turner (Lund University, Sweden), Prof. Sibel Ozkan (Ankara University, Turkey), Assoc. Prof. Barbara Bojko (Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun, Poland), Assoc. Prof. Ezel Boyaci (Middle East Technical University, Turkey), and international members: Prof. Janusz Pawliszyn (University of Waterloo, Canada) and Prof. Gangfeng Ouyang, (Sun Yat-Sen University, China).

There are three working groups (WG) in the network:

1. WG1. Science and Fundamentals, with **Antonio Martín-Esteban**, Department of Environment & Agronomy at INIA, Madrid, Spain, **Giorgia Purcaro**, Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech, University of Liège, Belgium and **Victoria Samanidou**, Department of Chemistry, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece, as leaders of the group.
2. WG2. Automation, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, with **Jonas Bergquist**, Department of Chemistry at Uppsala University, Sweden, **Carlo Bicchi**, Pharmaceutical Biology, University of Torino, Italy, **Frank David**, Research Institute for Chromatography (RIC) in Kortrijk, Belgium, and **Luigi Mondello**, University of Messina, Italy, as leaders of the group.
3. WG3. Information Exchange and Networking, with **Cecilia Cagliero** from Department of Drug, Science and Technology of the University of Turin, Italy, **Rafael Lucena** Department of Analytical Chemistry, Institute of Nanochemistry of the University of Córdoba, Spain and **Mariosimone Zoccali**, University of Messina, Italy, as leaders of the group.

Francisco Pena-Pereira (University of Vigo, Spain) is communication manager, while **Ángela I. López-Lorente** (University of Córdoba, Spain) is publicity manager of the network.

The EuChemS-DAC Sample Preparation Study Group and Network invites European and non-European researchers and professionals interested in sample preparation, including both experienced and young scientists, to join the team. Becoming a member is easy and free. All members of our network can increase networking opportunities, gain visibility by sharing their work with other members, participate in team activities to disseminate sample preparation relevance across multiple industries, and receive the latest updates in this field.

More information is available at: <https://www.sampleprep.tuc.gr/en/home>

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