

EDITOR'S CORNER

Recent Workshops on Four Continents

The interest in rapid methods workshops is continuing around the globe! In August and September of 1996 I was involved on four (4) continents. It was great in terms of training new and exciting young scientists around the world through the "satellite" workshops my colleagues and I have been involved in through the year.

The first one was at Monterrey Technical University in Monterrey, Mexico. This is an excellent university with very progressive faculty and high quality students. Dr. Jesus Velazco, an ambitious and young professor, organized this workshop for the second time. The participants came from all over Mexico and we had a great time interacting on many rapid methods and had a great laboratory component in this workshop. Another Mexican workshop is planned in 1997.

The next workshop in this series was at the University of Sao Paulo, Brazil. The amazing thing about this workshop was that in the original plan 40 students were expected, but the final enrollment totalled more than 100 people. The excitement of rapid methods in Brazil is unbelievable, mainly due to the untiring work of Dr. Bernadette Franco who came to the KSU workshop a few years ago and introduced rapid methods to Brazil. The next stop was to Budapest, Hungary for a workshop with Dr. Tibor Deak and Dr. P.C. Vasavada. There were people from more than eight countries in the workshop which lasted for two days with lectures and laboratory exercises.

The last workshop was very memorable. It was in Harare, Zimbabwe. This was the first rapid microbiology workshop on the entire continent of Africa. Catherine and I visited South Africa first and then went to Zimbabwe. The hostess, Dr. Lilian Marovatsanga, treated us with a wonderful weekend at Victoria Falls where we had a chance to see the REAL Africa with animals, waterfalls, wonderful scenery, great traditional foods and all the tourist spots. The workshop was conducted at the University of Zimbabwe with many excited students and industry personnel. Some people from South Africa also came to the workshop.

In all these workshops, we were blessed with industrial companies who sent scientists, materials, kits and systems to the location to make the workshop very meaningful and successful.

I welcome any reader of this journal to contact me if you are interested in having a two or three day workshop in your location. I can help set up the workshop with local scientists and commercial suppliers to make it a success for the good of applied microbiology, nationally and internationally.

The announcement of the 1997 Kansas State University Workshop is printed in this issue of the Journal. Have a happy late Winter and early Spring season.

DANIEL Y.C. FUNG