Leading the organization of the 5th EspeQBrasil

Amauri Antonio Menegário, PhD

CNPq Researcher Level III
Coordinator of the Center for Environmental Studies at the
São Paulo State University (CEA-UNESP), SP, Brazil
amenega@rc.unesp.br

It is very frequent I say to close friends: *having a child is very expensive, but, the “money” expended on my children was the best investment of my life*. This phrase can be adapted when you are organizing a meeting that you see was born and growing. I feel the EspeQBrasil is like a son to me. When leading the organization of the 5th EspeQBrasil, I looked for its growth at least in four aspects: size, quality, scope and evolution of the meeting. I really believe that the EspeQBrasil should not be restricted to just chemical fractionation or speciation analysis. EspeQBrasil is a meeting to produce news in science from the development of analytical and environmental chemistry by joining peoples from different areas. A meeting where the real demand and approaches for new questions come to light. This position makes me more apprehensive, was very hard and time consuming or, using a single word, it was very expensive. Nonetheless, the *money* expended on organizing the 5th EspeQBrasil resulted in a real mark in my career. Similar as my wife was essential for having and for growing up my children, my research group (please see their names at <https://www2.unesp.br/portal#!/cea/home/espeqbrasil2017/>) was essential for organizing the 5th EspeQBrasil. Like a wife, the hard part of the work was given to my research group. They were involved in everything: *I just delegate work and they take care of the 5th EspeQ*. Similar to the wife's life they also have double burden. Also, I couldn't forget the friends, the CEA/UNESP (and its staff), companies and the agencies that provide the financial support to 5th EspeQBrasil.

5th EspeQBrasil Scientific Committee

Finally, I would like to point out the *South American-UK Agri-Industrial Waste-to-Land Challenge Hub* workshop (organized by Prof. Paul N. Williams) that ran alongside the 5th EspeQ Brasil and brought peoples from different areas and countries to our Brazilian meeting.

We made mistakes, we had surprises (bad and great ones), we fought among ourselves and we tirelessly work to the point of exhaustion. However, we had a meeting that we love and I suppose where the real demand and approaches for news analytical and environmental question comes to light: 5th EspeQBrasil.