

## **Message from the President of the Canadian Society for Analytical Sciences and Spectroscopy (CSASS)**

Dear Reader,

This sixth issue of Volume 49 of the Canadian Journal of Analytical Sciences and Spectroscopy (CJASS) is in honour of Prof. Jean-Michel Mermet who is retiring at the end of 2004. It includes several papers that were presented at the 50<sup>th</sup> ICASS (International Conference on Analytical Sciences and Spectroscopy) in a symposium honouring Jean-Michel Mermet, as well as contributed papers from people who could not attend.

The 50<sup>th</sup> ICASS, which was held in Halifax in mid-August 2004, is sponsored like CJASS by the CSASS (formerly the Spectroscopy Society of Canada). Marc Lamoureux, who was Conference Chair, did an incredible job of organising a most memorable conference. In addition to a program that included great speakers (in terms of both international reputation and quality of presentation), it included a tour of Halifax in amphibious vehicles that ended in the oldest brewery (where free sampling could be done!). The lobster dinner banquet took place on a boat touring Halifax harbour (where whales could be seen!), with live musical entertainment. As President of CSASS and in the name of CSASS members and ICASS attendees, I want to sincerely thank Marc and his team for an event that elegantly marked the Golden Jubilee of the Society and will be remembered for years to come.

Those who accepted my invitation to come to honour Jean-Michel Mermet also attended a dinner in his honour, where he was delicately 'roasted' by some of his friends from all over the world (Joe Caruso (USA), Olivier Donard (France), Joe Brenner (Israel), Naoki Furuta (Japan), Mike Blades (Canada) and yours truly). Everybody had a good laugh while enjoying a nice meal. Speakers in the symposium all took this moment very seriously and made outstanding presentations. The reader can see some examples of these high-quality presentations in this issue. It is my hope that they will incite the reader to participate in future ICASS meetings. For instance, in 2005, the ICASS will be jointly held with the FACSS (Federation of Analytical Chemistry and Spectroscopy Societies) meeting in Quebec City, October 9-13 (see [www.facss.org](http://www.facss.org)).

The international content of this conference is also well represented by contributions from Belgium, China, France, Japan, Switzerland, the U.S.A. and the United Kingdom, in addition to several papers from Canada. The plenary lecture given by Mermet is also included. I sincerely thank all of the authors for selecting CJASS for the publication of their high-quality work. As a result, Issue 6 is a most fitting tribute to Jean-Michel Mermet. In ending, I invite you to read (below) the opening statement that I made at the onset of the symposium.

With best regards,

Dr. Diane Beauchemin, President of CSASS

**Opening of the symposium in honour of Jean-Michel Mermet, which was held at the 50<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Analytical Sciences and Spectroscopy, in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, in August 2004.**

**J**oined, we are today to honour him sincerely.  
**E**verything he has done over the years to aid  
**A**nyone and everyone is very fondly  
**N**oted: he never expected to be repaid!

**M**any people enjoyed his generosity,  
**I**ncluding much more than one manufacturer.  
**C**ould the ICP be a curiosity?  
**H**e ensured its wide use as an atomizer.  
**E**very decent lab uses optimisation  
**L**ines that he characterised with great precaution.

**M**any can therefore enjoy robust conditions,  
**E**very calibration hence being simplified.  
**R**umour has it that he will take piano lessons;  
**M**aybe a new talent will be identified...  
**E**ven art history, he may learn; who can tell?  
**T**ogether, join me to thank him and wish him well!

*Diane Beauchemin*  
**Organiser of the symposium**