

BioCop Fellowship Scheme 2006

I am pleased to announce that the winner of the BioCop Fellowship Scheme 2006 is Dr. Hasna Mohammadi of the Università di Roma Tor Vergata, Dipartimento di Scienze e Tecnologie Chimiche, Italy (URTV, Partner 16)

Dr. Mohammadi obtained her primary degree in Environmental Protection in 1998 then received her Masters degree in Sciences and Technologies of the Environment in the year 2000. She furthered her education by studying for a PhD in Analytical Chemistry at the University II Mohamedia, Morocco and was awarded this in 2004. During her four years' PhD training, she was engaged in research using electro-analysis with emphasis on the use of enzymes as analytical reagents, immobilised enzymes, chemical sensors, applied biosensors and electrochemical sensors for environmental and food analysis. Dr. Mohammadi joined the BioCop project in 2005 and has since been working on developing a new, sensitive electrochemical sensor for the determination of lead in milk, under the supervision of Prof Giuseppe Palleschi. The use of mercury and bismuth-coated Screen Printed Electrodes (Bi-SPEs) coupled with anodic stripping voltammetry has been the focus of this work.

As part of the Fellowship, Dr. Mohammadi has proposed a two-week visit to the Department of Chemistry at the Universidade de Coimbra in Portugal, to work with Prof. Christopher M A Brett. Prof. Brett has wide experience in the use of modified electrochemical sensors for heavy metal determination and stripping analysis. Dr. Mohammadi believes that the BioCop Fellowship scheme will be an opportunity for her to improve her knowledge of Stripping Voltammetry Techniques and to become acquainted with other voltammetry techniques and electrochemical modification of sensors in order to improve the sensitivity and reproducibility of heavy metal detection.

On completion of the visit, Dr. Mohammadi will provide a short report on what has been achieved from both research and personal aspects.

The BioCop Fellowship Scheme is to be an annual event with primary aims of promoting women's participation in science, providing career development opportunities training in new technologies for women scientists working on the BioCop project. Next year's programme will start in early February 2007 and I will be looking forward to receiving your applications.

BioCop Gender Manager
Dr. Chen Situ
Queen's University Belfast