

EDITORIAL



Reflections on Kansas State University XXIX International Workshop on Rapid Methods and Automation in Microbiology, June 19–26, 2009

It is my great pleasure to inform the readers of this journal that the Kansas State University (KSU) XXIXth Rapid Methods Workshop was successfully completed on June 26, 2009. It is hard for me to realize that for *29 consecutive years*, the Department of Animal Sciences and Industry and the Food Science Institute have staged this international event.

How time flies. More than 4,000 participants from more than 40 countries have participated in the current longest continuous running scientific and educational program at KSU, and honored this workshop on this lovely campus and the charming city of Manhattan, Kansas. Besides world-renowned applied and theoretical microbiologists from the U.S.A. and abroad giving up-to-the minute information on a variety of cutting-edge applied microbiological topics and concepts, the participants had hands-on experiences on some

of the most sophisticated systems and instruments in miniaturization, automation, immunology, applied microbiology, innovative culture media, PCR and all its many formats and applications, microarrays, molecular biology, etc. The eight solid days of intensive interactions also included banquets, gatherings, tours and hiking in the NSF Konza Research and Educational Prairie facilities, where participants actually came face to face with huge formidable Kansas bisons in their natural habitat and environment.

The picnics, receptions, banquets, pool party and talent shows helped to provide meaningful diversions and personal interactions from the intense physical and mental activities. The friendship and camaraderie generated will last for a long, long time.

All in all, it was a most rewarding experience for all. Dr. Daniel Y. C. Fung and Dr. Catherine L. Fung, host family, sitting at the edge of the pool in the photo, are smiling with pride and joy for being the hosts to this event for 29 years and waiting to greet the participants of the GALA XXX International Workshop on Rapid Methods and Automation in Microbiology, June 10 to 18, 2010.

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Editor