
Preface

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Biographical notes: Maria dos Santos Afonso received her PhD in Chemistry at University of La Plata. Her current position is a Professor at University of Buenos Aires where she teaches aquatic chemistry and general chemistry courses. Her research interests are focused on the biogeochemistry of soils, sediments and aquatic ecosystems, the cycles of water, carbon, nutrients and metals, water-rock interactions, the chemistry of the organic pollutants such as pesticides, and environmental modelling. She has advised more than 10 PhD students and published more than 65 papers in peer-reviewed international journals, one book and several book chapters.

Rosa Maria Torres Sánchez holds a PhD in Natural Sciences. She is Principal Researcher in the National Research Council (CONICET). Her research interests focus on the characterisation of clay and soil, and the application of clays in water and effluent treatments and as agrochemical adsorbents. She teaches several postgraduate courses, has published more than 80 papers in international peer-reviewed journals and several book chapters, and has directed more than 10 PhD and several research projects.

The II International Congress of Environmental Science and Technology and the II National Congress of the Argentinean Society of Environmental Sciences and Technologies was held from 1–4 December, 2015, in the city of Buenos Aires, Argentina.

This conference, named “Argentina and the Environment 2015 (AA2015) under the slogan of “Interdisciplinary Approaches to the Sustainability of the Environment”, was organised with the aim to integrate, once again, multidisciplinary perspectives to identify the technologies most compatible with sustainable development, prioritising a better quality of life and preservation of the environment.

The congress brought together 433 contributors from scientific and technological areas such as chemistry, physics, meteorology, biology, agronomy, microbiology,

veterinary science, oceanography, engineering, environmental education, and environmental policy. The AA2015 held six plenary lectures, 12 invited speakers, three round tables with 10 invited speakers, and 163 and 270 oral and poster presentations, respectively, which allowed a broad interaction among the participants in an environment of camaraderie and served as a platform for numerous scientific contacts.

International Journal of Environment and Health gave us the mission to publish a special issue dedicated to the conference with a selection of papers presented at AA2015. Thus, this issue of the journal collects six research papers related to different topics. In this issue the following papers are presented:

- Natural sciences and environmental issues: a contribution from the philosophy of environmental sciences
- The use of territory carrying capacity in an urban development master plan in Neuquén city, Argentina
- Performance evaluation of aerobic reactor and *Sarcocornia perennis* to reduce the COD and chloride of effluents from tanning sheepskins
- Metals and metalloids in mussels from the Argentine Patagonia
- Natural adaptation to the environmental conditions affects the oxidation-dependent processes in limpets
- Effects of chlorpyrifos on acetylcholinesterase activity in two freshwater fish species (*Cnesterodon decemmaculatus* and *Gambusia affinis*)

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