



Training and Mobility >>>

The French Connection, part deux

Dr John Keegan, spotted an article, in the June 2005 edition of *lablinks*, on the School for Advanced Residue Analysis in Food (SARAF). He joined a group of delegates from all over the world in Nantes on 3-4 October 2005 for its sixth session.

The course covered the broad areas of analysis of foodstuffs and food legislation including its importance in international trade.

"We looked at such things as drug residues, pesticides, dioxins and all other food contaminants, as well as the use of the different instrumental detection methods available including screening and

confirmatory methods," Dr Keegan, an Executive Analytical Chemist at the Public Analyst's Laboratory in Dublin, explained

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Dr John Keegan (seated left) attends the School for the Advanced Residue Analysis in Food (SARAF)

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Dr Keegan found the heavy emphasis on mass spectral techniques and the method validation on the course particularly useful: "The Dublin Public Analyst's Laboratory has recently acquired advanced LC-MS/MS and we're introducing more and more mass spec. methods here. Probably next year we will submit our first mass spec. method for accreditation."

The course wasn't all classroom-style lectures: "The afternoons were often practical group workshops which were applications of what was discussed in the lectures," said Dr Keegan.

A number of special topics, such as experimental design and principal component analysis were also presented. Practical demonstrations from some instrument suppliers, such as 'lab on a chip' techniques and RT-PCR for dioxins also featured.

Dr Keegan also appreciated the chats with

colleagues outside the classroom.

"Informally there was discussion amongst ourselves, exchanging views and analytical problems. As there were only 20 of us on the course we could have in-depth discussion with the lecturers, who are leaders in the analysis of food residue and contaminants, during breaks."

Dr Keegan would have no hesitation in recommending the SARAF course: "It can benefit the individual analyst and, as they bring back new information, the participating analyst's laboratory too."

Dr Keegan applied for the course under the **safefood** Training and Mobility Programme; **safefood** sponsored 50 percent of the course fees and travel.

For further information on **safefood's** Training and Mobility Programme contact Kara Cashman on 00 353 (21) 2304117



Lecturer, Fabrice Monteau presents to some of the group