

Foreword

This monographic issue of *Scientia Marina* includes nine articles on marine biogeochemistry, ecotoxicology and contamination of marine coastal systems selected from the 111 communications presented at the *XV Seminario Ibérico de Química Marina* (15th Iberian Seminar on Marine Chemistry) that was held in Vigo (Spain) on 22-24 February 2010.

This seminar, held for first time in Cádiz (Spain) in 1983 and then biennially, constitutes a regular flow of communication between researchers of Portugal and Spain who use chemistry and its tools to study marine processes. The different editions of the seminar have been held in different Spanish and Portuguese cities –Cádiz, Vigo, Aveiro, Faro, Lisbon and A Coruña– with strong maritime traditions and which are active in marine research.

This special issue of *Scientia Marina* –as the *XV Seminario Ibérico de Química Marina*– is dedicated to Professor Dr. Fernando Fraga in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the field of marine chemistry, mainly focused on water mass variability, the nitrogen cycle, and organic matter in the oceans. Without a doubt, he is the pioneer of oceanography in Galicia, and the founder of oceanography and marine chemistry in Spain as they exist today. Those scientists who have had the pleasure of working with Prof. Fraga have benefited greatly from his teaching and his enthusiasm in sharing his knowledge and ideas. Prof. Fraga is an outstanding scientist, bestowed with qualities of kindness and humility. He has always been a pioneer in the use of new technologies. His open-mindedness and commitment to science serve as a model to follow and an unquestionable guide for us all.

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