



Conference Abstract

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Competing Interest

The authors declare no competing interests.

Conference Abstract

HEAVY ELEMENTS, THEIR USES AND TOXICITY. ADVANCES IN THE DETERMINATION OF TRACE LEVEL HEAVY ELEMENTS IN FOOD AND HUMAN SAMPLES

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Dr. Hameed A. Mirza has a Ph.D. in Metal-Organic Chemistry from the University of Western Ontario, London. He then moved to McGill University and did post-doctoral fellowship in Protein Engineering Center of Excellence at Pulp and Paper Research Institute of Canada. Dr. Mirza has served as a professor of school of biological sciences and applied chemistry program of the Seneca College at the York Campus. Dr. Mirza is an Adjunct Professor at the International Center of Chemical and Biological Sciences. Since 2004, he is teaching at the Department of Chemistry at York University. Dr. Mirza is also involved in applied research in the area of Pharmaceutical Chemistry at the A.S. Chemical Laboratories Inc. as Chief Scientific Officer. He has published over 45 research papers in peer reviewed international Journals and made over 50 presentations at regional, national and international conferences. He also sits as the board of directors at the NAPIT. He is a recipient of the Academic Award from the blessed hands of His Holiness Hazrat Khalifatul Masih the V (aa) in 2010 at the Annual Convention of AMJ Canada. Currently, Dr. Mirza is also serving as the National Secretary Ta'lim (Education) at the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at. He is also serving as the President of Ahmadiyya Muslim Scientists' Association, Canada.

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Key words: Toxicity, Determination.

Abstract

"And the earth brings forth her burdens." (99:3)

Additional information is available
at the end of the article.

The Holy Qur'an centuries ago disclosed that a time will come when heavy elements will be mined and explored for their uses. It also pointed out that these discoveries will be made at the time of the second coming of the Messiah. As Industrial and technological advances made over the last one hundred years to benefit humankind are massively relied in the use of these so called heavy elements. For instance, all the electronic industry (Computers, laptops, cell phones and other gadgets) depends on the use of these elements. Similarly auto, aircraft, chemical and other industries are chief users of these elements. Out of these elements some are known as essential for life while other elements are classified as toxic. This presentation will give a brief overview of various elements, their classifications, uses and will focus on recent advances in analytical techniques, particularly inductively coupled plasma (ICP) spectrometry, that have resulted in determination of elements to parts per trillion level in soil, water, food, chemical samples and human subjects as well as pharmaceutical products. This analytical technique has much wider applications spanning from health to environment, mining to electronics, drugs to biotechnology etc.

With some selected examples we will highlight useful application of ICP-MS.



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