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Scientific advancement in contract analytical laboratories

As the needs of the various markets served by the contract analytical laboratory evolve, the services provided by the laboratory must also evolve. This evolution includes not only the development of new and innovative science, technology and services to identify and measure new and emerging contaminants of concern, but also taking a more active role in supporting the end user of the laboratory data by providing guidance and consultative support in the collection of representative samples; correct and appropriate test methods to meet project objectives; expert testimony in litigation; and advocacy for sound science and a high standard of professional practice, among others. The contract analytical laboratory industry has undergone significant change over the course of the last 30 years. This presentation offers a retrospective view of the evolution of science, technology and service in the contract laboratory industry to meet the needs of changing market demands. Further, with continually changing analytical demands brought about by the new science in the industries served, this presentation will also show how the laboratory industry continues to evolve scientifically to meet these challenges.

Biography

Terry Obal is the Director of Scientific Services and Development at Maxxam Analytics. Terry's mandate includes the development and validation of new methods and processes at Maxxam, directing Environmental Research and Development activities and providing technical representation and consultative support to internal and external Maxxam clients. Terry has over 30 years of experience in analytical chemistry, laboratory management and environmental chemical consulting. He holds B.Sc., M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in chemistry. He is an Ontario Chartered Chemist (C.Chem.) and currently the immediate Past President of the Association of the Chemical Profession of Ontario (ACPO).

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