

FEATURE

Chemistry for National Sovereignty: 49th RASBQ Reaffirms the Strategic Role of Brazilian Science

From June 15 to 18, 2026, the city of Campinas hosted the 49th Annual Meeting of the Brazilian Chemical Society (49th RASBQ), once again establishing itself as the premier gathering of the national chemistry community. Over four days, researchers, professors, students, and professionals from different regions of the country engaged in an intensive scientific program addressing contemporary challenges in Chemistry, strengthening collaborative networks, and promoting Brazilian scientific production.



Participants arriving at the 49th RASBQ – Photo: SBQ 2026.

With the theme “Chemistry for National Sovereignty,” the 2026 edition of RASBQ reinforced the strategic role of science in the country’s development. Throughout the program, national sovereignty was addressed from different perspectives, highlighting the importance of scientific research, technological innovation, human resource development, and public policies capable of strengthening national autonomy in strategic areas.

Recognized as one of the largest chemistry events in Latin America, the 49th RASBQ brought together approximately 2,000 participants and offered a diverse program consisting of conferences, symposia, coordinated sessions, short courses, workshops, poster presentations, flash presentations, assemblies, and science communication activities. More than just a venue for presenting research results, the meeting has established itself as a prime setting for exchanging experiences, forging collaborations, and institutionally strengthening the Brazilian chemistry community.

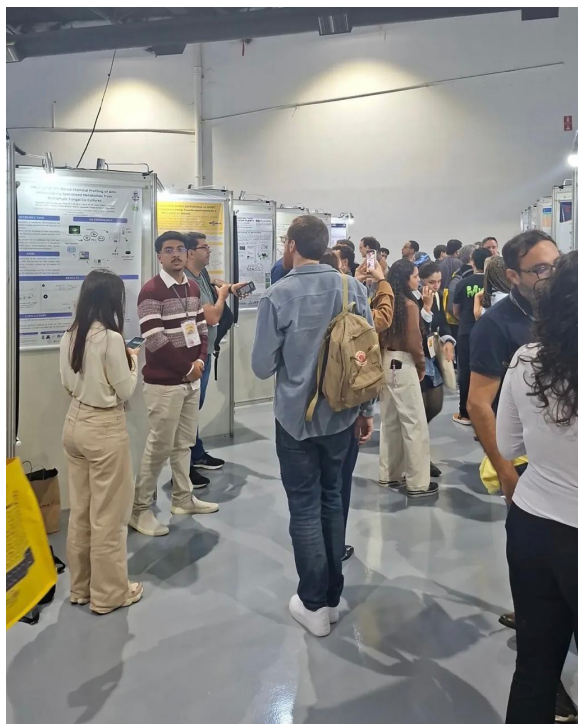


The 49th RASBQ brought together approximately 2,000 participants and offered a diverse scientific program – Photo: SBQ 2026.

The opening ceremony marked the beginning of the scientific activities and was enriched by a presentation by the [Projeto Canarinhos da Terra UNICAMP](#), a performing choir for children and young people that combines singing, theater, and body expression, with a focus on human and cultural development, symbolizing the integration of science, culture, and education. Also on the first day, technical visits to the National Center for Research in Energy and Materials (CNPEM) and specialized workshops provided opportunities for researchers to connect with major research centers in the country.

Among the scientific highlights was Symposium I, which promoted a broad reflection on the relationship between science, development, and national sovereignty. The lectures delivered by Renato Janine Ribeiro (University of São Paulo), who addressed science as an instrument for the good of everyone; Lucia Helena da Silva Maciel Xavier (Centre for Mineral Technology – CETEM), who highlighted Brazil's potential in critical and strategic minerals; and Carlos Graboio Gadelha (Fundação Oswaldo Cruz – Fiocruz), who discussed the relationship between sovereignty, development, and the right to life, showed that investing in science means investing in Brazil's future.

Another highly relevant moment was Symposium II, organized by the [Núcleo Mulheres SBQ](#), a group of women scientists established by SBQ in 2019, which addressed gender equity, institutional policies, and mentoring programs as fundamental instruments for transforming the academic environment. The lectures by Mônica Alonso Cotta (UNICAMP) and Valéria Neves Domingos Cavalcanti (UEM) brought reflections on how institutional policies, mentoring programs, and collective actions can transform the academic and scientific environment, strengthening gender equity in Chemistry and the sciences. The discussion highlighted that building a more diverse and inclusive science depends not only on recognizing existing inequalities, but also on implementing structural actions capable of expanding opportunities and strengthening the participation of groups historically underrepresented in scientific research.



Poster presentation session – Photo: SBQ 2026.

Poster presentation sessions remained among the busiest activities of the program. Much more than disseminating scientific results, these spaces fostered dialogue among research groups from different institutions, stimulated new collaborations, and expanded opportunities for exchange among researchers at different stages of their training. During the closing of the event, outstanding research in various areas of Chemistry was recognized with awards, highlighting the quality of the scientific production presented at the meeting.

The connection between universities and society also gained space through the traditional *SBQ na Escola* initiative, which brought together public-school high school students for experimental activities and interactive demonstrations. The initiative allowed young people to have direct contact with science, while also providing undergraduate and graduate students with an opportunity to develop scientific communication and knowledge dissemination skills for different audiences.



SBQ na Escola brought together public-school high school students for experimental activities and interactive demonstrations – Photo: SBQ 2026.

In addition to the scientific activities, the 49th RASBQ reaffirmed the role of the Brazilian Chemical Society as a coordinator of the national scientific community. Assemblies, meetings among scientific divisions, regional activities, and moments of integration strengthened the collective development of proposals aimed at advancing research, education, and innovation in the country. The event also highlighted the importance of cooperation among universities, research institutes, the productive sector, and funding agencies in addressing the scientific and technological challenges of the coming decades.

Science, Research, and the Productive Sector

The 49th RASBQ also featured a space dedicated to bringing together the scientific community, companies, and institutions involved in the development of technologies, products, and solutions for Chemistry. The exhibition pavilion enabled participants to learn about equipment, services, technologies, and different possibilities for research and development partnerships, expanding opportunities for interaction between academia and the productive sector.



The exhibition pavilion enabled participants to learn about equipment, services, and technologies – Photo: Lilian Freitas.

The event also received support from CAPES, CNPq, FAPESP, and OPCW, in addition to the participation of organizations and companies in different sponsorship categories. Diamond sponsors included ACS Publications, ACS Chemistry for Life, and CFQ/CRQs; Silver sponsors included HORIBA, NEON, and SHIMADZU; and Bronze sponsors included Anton Paar, analytikJena, BRUKER, CNPEM, flowacience, flowsupplyflowservice, General, LABORGLAS, Metrohm, Malvern Panalytical, Royal Society of Chemistry, Waters, TA Instruments, and Tns TENNESSINE. The exhibition pavilion also included Agilent, Nova Analítica, PerkinElmer, ALLCROM, PEAK, among other companies.

The presence of these organizations reinforced one of the central characteristics of the 49th RASBQ: the creation of an environment in which different actors in the scientific and technological ecosystem can share knowledge, present new solutions, and establish connections. For researchers and students, contact with companies and institutions during the event also represents an opportunity to learn about technologies available for their projects, identify new possibilities for collaboration, and bring academic research closer to the demands and challenges faced by the sector.

At the end of the meeting, the perception remained among participants that Brazilian Chemistry continues to play a central role in building solutions to strategic issues related to health, energy, sustainability, food security, industrial development, and environmental preservation. More than celebrating advances in national research, the 49th RASBQ reaffirmed that investing in science means strengthening Brazil's capacity to produce knowledge, train people, and build a future guided by innovation and scientific sovereignty.

Source: Sociedade Brasileira de Química (SBQ)

Text: Lilian Freitas – BrJAC Publisher

Disclosure

The feature was translated from Portuguese into English with the assistance of ChatGPT. BrJAC takes full responsibility for the final version.