

News

**23rd Annual Meeting of The Society for Glycobiology
(previously called The Society for Complex
Carbohydrates), November 9–12 1994, Notre Dame, IN,
USA**

Information: Dr Subhash Basu, Dept of Chemistry and Biochemistry, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN 46556, USA. Tel: +219 631 5759. Fax: +219 631 7520.

**Third International Workshop on Carbohydrates as
Organic Raw Materials, November 28–29 1994,
Wageningen, The Netherlands**

Information: Carbohydrate Research Foundation, PO Box 96988, 2509 JJ The Hague, The Netherlands. Tel: +31 70 354 0982. Fax: +31 70 354 1851.

**Glycobiology of Inflammation, December 13–16 1994,
University of Sussex, UK**

The Glycobiology Group of the British Biochemical Society.

Information: Dr Ten Feizi, Applied Immunological Research Unit, Clinical Research Centre, Harrow, England (*Organizer*).

**Eurocarb VIII, 8th European Carbohydrate Symposium,
July 2–7 1995, Seville, Spain**

Information: Professor M. Gómez-Guillén, Departamento de Química Orgánica, Facultad de Química, Apartado 553, E-41071 Sevilla, Spain.

**XIIIth International Symposium on Glycoconjugates,
August 20–26 1995, Seattle, Washington, USA**

Organizing Chairman: Sen-itiroh Hakomori
Abstracts will be published in a special issue of the *Glycoconjugate Journal*.

Information: Sen-itiroh Hakomori, The Biomembrane Institute, 201 Elliott Avenue West, Suite 305, Seattle, WA 98119-4237, USA.

**18th International Carbohydrate Symposium, July 21–26
1996, Milan, Italy**

Information: Prof B Casu, G. Ronzoni Inst for Chemical and Biochemical Research, Via G. Colombo 81, 20133 Milan, Italy. Fax: +39 270 633007.

**The 4th European Training Course on Carbohydrates, July
1996**

In collaboration with the Carbohydrate Group of the Italian Chemical Society

The course aims at introducing young academica (PhD students, Post-docs) and industrial workers to the modern principles, tools and trends of carbohydrate chemistry and technology.

Information: Carbohydrate Research Foundation, PO Box 96988, 2509 JJ The Hague, The Netherlands. Tel: +31 70 354 0982. Fax: +31 70 354 1851.

**Carbohydrate Bioengineering Meeting, April 23–26 1995,
Elsinore, Denmark**

Organized together with The Working Party on Applied Biocatalysis of the European Federation of Biotechnology
Sessions: Structure of carbohydrates, Structure and function of carbohydrate active enzymes, Applications of protein engineering, Carbohydrates for medical use, Carbohydrates for food/feed applications, Carbohydrates as raw materials for chemical synthesis.

Organizing Committee: Sven Pedersen (Novo Nordisk, Denmark), Birte Svensson (Carlsberg Laboratory, Denmark), Steffen B. Petersen (SINTEF UNIMED, MR-Center, Norway).

Information: Mona K. Eidem, SINTEF UNIMED, MR-Center, N-7034 Trondheim, Norway. Tel: +47 73 99 77 00. Fax: +47 73 99 77 08.

or: Steffen B. Petersen, email sbp@marvin.mr.sintef.no

Patent

Method for the Detection and/or Quantitative Determination of 9-N/O-acetylated Sialic Acids

German Patent P 41 19 085.8, European and US patent applications.

Applicant: Dr Pallmann, Biotechnik GmbH, München, Germany.

Inventors: Roland Schauer, Gerd Reuter, Gert Zimmer, Biochemisches Institut, Christian-Albrechts-Universität Kiel, Olshausenstr 40, D-24098 Kiel, Germany.

This method can be used for the detection and estimation of the amount of 9-O-acetylated sialic acids linked to glycoproteins and gangliosides of tissue sections, cells, thin-layers, gels and other materials. Since influenza C or Corona viruses selectively bind to the natural 9-O-acetylated sialic acids via their haemagglutinins, bound viruses can be specifically detected on the basis of the O-acetylcetase activity using suitable esterase substrates. Using fluorogenic methylumbelliferyl acetate, a very sensitive analysis is possible. This test is most helpful in screening isolated glycoconjugates, cells and tissues in which 9-O-acetylated sialic acids have been shown to be part of differentiation or tumour-associated antigens.