



ELSEVIER

Journal of Chromatography A, 976 (2002) 1–2

---

---

JOURNAL OF  
CHROMATOGRAPHY A

---

---

www.elsevier.com/locate/chroma

---

## Preface

---

From 6 to 8 February 2002, the 7<sup>th</sup> *International Symposium on Hyphenated Techniques in Chromatography and Hyphenated Chromatographic Analysers (HTC-7)* was held at the Saint John's Conference Centre (Congrescentrum Oud Sint-Jan) in Bruges (Belgium). The previous meeting, HTC-6 in February 2000, had set a new record with circa 350 delegates. HTC-7 surpassed that record with over 400 delegates from 45 different countries from all over the world. This proved that hyphenated techniques have become one of the most popular areas of analytical chemistry. In this HTC-7 meeting, as usual, academia, industry and government were well represented among both speakers and attendees.

The symposium was preceded by ten short courses on: Comprehensive two-dimensional gas chromatography (GC×GC) and cryogenic modulation in GC (Ph. Marriott and P. Morrison); Hyphenated techniques in proteomics and glycobiology (M. Novotny and B. Devreese); Advances in process monitoring and analysis technologies (R. Synovec); The use of hyphenated flash pyrolysis techniques (J. Bart, H. Wilcken, J. Geyer-Lippmann and D. Ribezzo); Separation and characterization of synthetic polymers (P. Schoenmakers, F. Fitzpatrick and M. Ziari); Microchemistry chips: fabrication, function and application (P. Myers and D. Barrow); Large volume on-column injection (K. Grob and M. Biedermann); Current practice of HPLC-NMR and HPLC-NMR-MS (I. Wilson); HPLC-inductively coupled plasma MS – instruments and applications (A. Shakra and I. Wilson); Derivatizations for improved separation, detection and identification, emphasising biopolymers (I. Krull). These short courses took place at the Novotel-Centrum in Bruges.

The HTC-7 Symposium was organised under the

auspices of the Royal Flemish Chemical Society (KVCV). Valuable financial support was offered by the “Fonds voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek Vlaanderen” (FWO) and the “Provincie West-Vlaanderen” and by an important number of sponsoring companies. Especially the sponsorship of our main sponsors ATAS, ThermoFinnigan and Interscience was greatly appreciated.

The organizing committee K.D. Bartle, H.J. Cortes, R. Senten (secretary), R. Smits (chairman) and H. Van den Branden (treasurer) was aided by an advisory international scientific committee consisting of P. Sandra (chairman), R. Smits (secretary), F. Adams, K.D. Bartle, U.A.Th. Brinkman, H.J. Cortes, C.A. Cramers, E. Esmans, M. Grasserbauer, K. Grob, J. Hoogmartens, I. Krull, D.L. Massart, J. Pawliszyn and P. Schoenmakers and a highly motivated executive committee consisting of E. Aerts, P. Demeyere, G. De Molder, P. Dieltiens, T. Houthaeye, E. Jooker, Ch. Ostermeyer, J. Perneel and R. Proost.

The scientific program comprised oral presentations, poster presentations, discussion sessions, tutorials as well as product seminars, covering basic principles, fundamental aspects, methods, developments and applications of the various hyphenated chromatographic techniques and hyphenated chromatographic analysers. The lecture program contained over 60 papers both in plenary and parallel sessions, grouped under application areas (e.g. proteomics, polymers, bioanalysis, environmental analysis, on-line process analysis, . . .) and techniques (e.g. hyphenated liquid chromatography, capillary electrophoresis, multidimensional techniques, inductively coupled plasma MS techniques, . . .). Emphasis was also placed on sam-

ple preparation, sample introduction, miniaturisation, automation, microfabricated analytical devices and on the design of hyphenated, on-line and at-line chromatographic process analyzers. The well attended four poster sessions comprised almost 200 posters describing all aspects of hyphenated chromatographic techniques. The high quality of the presented poster contributions and the novelty of the scientific content of the presentations were highly appreciated.

During nine tutorials, prominent and recognised experts in the field gave an overview of the basic principles, methods, developments and applications in the field of: Inductively coupled plasma time-of-flight mass spectrometry: a fast transient detection method for environmental analysis (H. Goenaga Infante); As molecules grow . . . (P. Schoenmakers); Proteomics – what it is, why it is of such interest today, and where it is going tomorrow (I. Krull); Membrane extraction with sorbent interface (J. Pawliszyn); Introduction towards the implementation of miniaturised LC–MS in biomedical research (E. Esmans and F. Lemière); Hot needle or fast auto-sampler injection into vaporizing GC injectors? How to get samples into a hot injector (K. Grob); Empty or packed liners for classical split or splitless injection (K. Grob); Reverse engineering of polymeric materials (J. Bart); Comparison of sorption based sample preparation techniques (C.A. Cramers).

Very successful also were the two topical discussions, lively round table debates chaired by I. Krull (“Reproducibility, reproducibility, reproducibility”) and U. Brinkman and I. Wilson (“Hyphenation, hyphenation and frustration”).

A very inviting instrument, book and supplies exhibition, comprising an almost complete program of nearly 20 companies, created the ideal forum to assess the state-of-the-art modern instrumentation. Furthermore, during three product seminars, sponsoring companies had the opportunity to go into detail about their new achievements and developments: data extraction software developments (Advanced Chemistry Developments), Photospray ionization techniques for LC–MS (Applied Biosystems) and

new developments in speciation measurements using inductively coupled plasma MS (Agilent Technologies).

On the first symposium day, the scientific program and the technical exhibition were closed earlier for the special ‘Company Happening’ of main sponsor ATAS, featuring seven short papers on important applications realised using their instruments and accessories. Lots of free food and drinks were generously provided.

An international jury under the chairmanship of P. Sandra, ensured that the most innovative paper or poster contribution of the conference could be acknowledged. During the closing session this HTC-Award, sponsored by Elsevier Science, was presented to Dr. Aviv Amirav, Professor of Chemistry at the Tel Aviv University, Israel. The nomination was based on two contributions presented at the meeting, namely A new approach for electron ionisation LC–MS and Supersonic GC–MS.

There was a full and lively social program, including a spouses’ program, welcome and farewell parties, guided visits to Bruges, Ghent and to the Westhoek and Flanders Fields, a brewery trip with food and tasting some of the famous Belgian beers and a conference dinner in the historical surroundings of the Castle of Tudor near Bruges, enchanted by conjurers, jesters, jugglers and troubadours.

The articles published in this symposium volume give an overview of the state-of-the-art modern hyphenated chromatographic techniques.

The organisers would like to thank the speakers and the participants for their engagement, all sponsors for their support and Professor Zdenek Deyl for his immense help in editing this symposium volume of *Journal of Chromatography A*.

The next HTC-Symposium (HTC-8) will again be held in the same venue (Saint John’s Conference Centre in Bruges, Belgium), from 4–6 February 2004. Further information together with some pictorial memories of HTC-7 is available on the conference website at <http://www.ordibo.be/htc>

*Oostduinkerke, Belgium*

R. Smits