
Foreword

The *First Monolith Summer School* was held at Portorož (Port of the Roses), Slovenia, from 6 to 9 June 2004. It was focused on short monolithic chromatography columns and their applications for biochromatography, bioconversion and solid phase synthesis.

Over more than one decade we have seen rapid development of monolithic technology and their applications in analytical and preparative separations of peptides, proteins, oligonucleotides, but also for separation of such large particles as plasmid DNAs and viruses. Recently, the first industrial-scale separation using monoliths has been implemented for separation of plasmids. Consequently, the topics were in line with the latest developments in analytical biotechnology and down stream processing in biotech industry.

The scientific and educational program, which consisted of 16 lectures, four workshops and 24 posters ranged from the fundamentals of separation with monolithic supports to their applications in above mentioned fields in biotechnology. More than 80 participants, who came from 19 European and overseas countries underlined great interest in this area. It was also a refreshing mixture between the people from

the industry and academic participants, mainly graduate and post-graduate students, which made this kind of meeting very interesting and successful.

The company BIA Separations, organizer of this meeting, did impressive work and offered us a great social program, too. Portorož is one of most charming places along the Adriatic coast and we really enjoyed the excellent food, fantastic environment and great, friendly people. And we should not forget to mention the excellent wines . . .

The Summer School in Portorož was the first in the series of summer schools of monoliths, which shall be held every second year, either in Europe or in the USA. We highly value the contribution of Professor Alois Jungbauer, Chairman of the Scientific Committee, Dr. Aleš Štrancar, Chairman of the Organizing Committee, Professor Tatiana Tennikova, who gave an excellent historical view about development of monolithic technology and of all who have taken part in the program, making this First Summer School a really big success.

See you all at the 2nd Monolith Summer School which will take place from May 28–31, 2006 again in Portorož.

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