

Foreword

The 14th International Symposium on Capillary Electroseparation Techniques, ITP2004, was held in Rome, Italy from 12 to 15 September 2004. The first symposium in this series was organized in 1979, therefore it is one of the oldest events on electromigration methods including capillary zone electrophoresis (CZE), micellar electrokinetic chromatography (MEKC), isotachopheresis (ITP) and capillary electrochromatography (CEC).

About 200 colleagues, coming from 23 countries, attended ITP2004 presenting their recent scientific results allowing us, as chair- and co-chair-persons, to propose a very interesting scientific program to the scientific and organizing committees.

The opening ceremony was held at the Aula Magna of Rome University "La Sapienza" where the participants were addressed by the chair and co-chair-persons, by Professors D. Misiti and G. Lucente (Dean of Pharmacy Faculty and Director of the Department of Pharmaceutical Studies University "La Sapienza", respectively) and by Professor G. Angelini (Director of Institute of Chemical Methodologies, C.N.R., Monterotondo Scalo, Italy). Professors H. Frank and F. Dondi, coordinators of EuSSS and ItSSS, respectively (European and Italian Societies of Separation Science) also welcomed the participants.

The scientific program started on Sunday, 12 September, with a plenary lecture given by Professor P.G. Righetti (University of Verona, Italy) presenting a comprehensive overview on the modification of the inner capillary surface with the aim to avoid wall adsorption of biomolecules and control the electroosmotic flow. The welcome party was taken at the terrace of "La Sapienza" University next to the lecture hall with a nice view of the garden.

From Monday, 13 September onwards, the scientific program (25 keynote lectures, 20 oral presentations and 120 posters) was carried out at the conference hall of Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (C.N.R.) P.le A. Moro 7. The topics discussed during ITP2004 included: the separation of biomolecules (proteins and peptides) the analysis of microorganisms, capillary electrochromatography, preparation of new stationary phases, chiral analysis, computer

simulation, preparative scale electromigration methods, microfluidic devices, hyphenation of capillary and chip electrophoresis with MS, new detectors, applications in forensic, pharmaceutical and biomedical analysis. 120 posters dealing with related above described topics were displayed during the Symposium giving to the participants good opportunity for discussion. Ing. F. Foret (Institute of Analytical Chemistry, Czech Academy of Sciences, Brno, Czech Republic) presented the closing plenary lecture illustrating the rapid development of microfluidic devices connected on-line to MS detectors.

The social program included the welcome party at "La Sapienza" University as well as the Symposium Dinner organized at "Palazzo Ferraioli", an old palace located on Colonna Square close to the Parliament and the famous "Fontana di Trevi". The typical classical Italian style was helpful in order to appreciate food and wines promoting additional atmosphere in order to provide a forum for further discussion between old and young generation interested in electromigration methods.

As chair- and co-chair of the symposium we wish to thank all those who contributed with their valuable cooperation to the success of ITP2004 in Rome. In particular, Mr. M. Cristalli and all co-workers at Institute of Chemical Methodologies, C.N.R., Monterotondo. In addition, we would like to thank Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (Rome), Institute of Chemical Methodologies (Monterotondo Scalo), University "La Sapienza" (Rome), "Dipartimento di Studi Farmaceutici" and Faculty of Pharmacy University "La Sapienza" (Rome), CaSSS, EuSSS, ItSSS, Italian Chemical Society (Pharmaceutical Chemistry) Elsevier, Wiley-VCH, Beckman-Coulter, J&M Analytische Mess Regeltechnik GmbH, GlaxoSmithClaine (Verona), Applied Biosystems.

The Symposium was closed with an invitation to attend next ITP2006 in Paris that will be organized by Professor Gabriel Peltre.

Rome, Italy

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