



Foreword

The 33rd International Symposium on High Performance Liquid Phase Separations and Related Techniques (HPLC2008 Kyoto), organized by the Society for Chromatographic Sciences, was held 2–5 December 2008 at the Kyoto University Katsura Campus, Kyoto, Japan, which is the first meeting in Asia as a regular HPLC Symposium.

The symposium has covered all aspects of separations by liquid chromatography and electrophoresis as well as related hyphenated techniques and detection methods. Emphasis was given to the following three areas:

- (1) Column technologies and miniaturized separation/detection systems;
- (2) High-efficiency-, high-speed-, and high-peak-capacity separations; and
- (3) Life-science-oriented (omics, pharmaceutical, biological, biomedical, etc.) applications.

More than 300 papers were presented in the symposium of three and a half days. A total of 55 recognized scientists were invited, including 13 from North America, 16 from Europe, 17 from Asia-Oceania countries and 9 from Japan, to deliver plenary or invited lectures. In oral sessions 77 papers in total were presented, including 9 plenary, 46 invited and 22 contributed, while 241 posters were presented in two sessions. Seven poster awards were selected from all the posters by the Best Poster Committee. In addition, three parallel evening lecture sessions, five lectures in each session, with dinner, were held one night in a hotel to give young researchers the opportunity to present their research orally and to meet senior scientists as well as young colleagues. A lecture award was given to the best presenter in each session. Vendor luncheon seminars were held by six sponsors. At the exhibition held together with the poster presentations, HPLC instruments and related supplies were displayed by 22 companies including some from overseas. The organizers were particularly happy to find many talented young researchers in poster and evening lecture presentations.

HPLC2008 Kyoto attracted 435 participants, 185 from overseas (25 countries) and 250 from Japan. Overseas participants included

20 from North America, 40 from Europe, and 125 from Asia-Oceania including 68 from China and 31 from ROC (Taiwan). Twenty-five travel grants were awarded to students and to young faculty members in academia.

HPLC2008 Kyoto showed a high level of science, and provided a friendly forum for international exchange, especially for those from Asia. The participants had a chance to visit temples, shrines and gardens to touch the Japanese culture in the sightseeing tours as a part of the program. The organizers thought that the cultural exchange was as important as the scientific exchange.

HPLC2008 Kyoto was supported by several foundations and institutes: the Commemorative Association for the Japan World Exposition (1970); the Naito Foundations; the Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers' Association of Japan; the Kyoto University Foundation; Graduate School of Engineering, Kyoto University; Kyoto Institute of Technology; Kyoto University Global COE Program - International Center for Integrated Research and Advanced Education in Material Science. Also several companies supported the symposium, including Shimadzu Corp.; Agilent Technologies; Merck Japan; Yakult Honsha Co.; Nippon Dionex. It is obvious that without these supports it was impossible to organize the HPLC2008 Kyoto. The symposium was mainly run by the students of the Laboratory of Analytical Chemistry of Materials of Kyoto University under the supervision by Dr. Fumihiko Kitagawa and Ms. Yoko Osaka (Secretariats). Their performance was praised by many participants during the symposium.

We hope HPLC2008 Kyoto to be remembered because of its contribution to the field of separation science and international exchange, especially in the Far East as this was the first HPLC series regular symposium held outside America and Europe. The high activity in this region was recognized, as indicated by the number of submissions to this proceeding issue of the journal. Finally, we sincerely hope that HPLC2008 Kyoto serves as a milestone for the progress of the field of separation science and as a step to greater international understanding.

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