



Foreword

The 11th International Symposium on Hyphenated Techniques in Chromatography and Hyphenated Chromatographic Analysers (HTC-11) was held in Bruges, Belgium, from January 27th to 29th, 2010. The previous two HTC meetings were organized in conjunction with the leading series on sample preparation (ExTech). However, this latter conference took place elsewhere this year. Therefore, a special two-day symposium was organized on Hyphenated Techniques for Sample Preparation (HTSP) on January 26th and 27th. The importance of the sample-preparation field was underlined by several hundreds of participants, most of which stayed on for the still larger HTC-11 conference.

For the first time the meeting took place in the new buildings of the Katholieke Hogeschool Brugge – Oostende (KHBO). These facilities were excellent, as was the support from the school's staff. Unfortunately, however, the buildings are located somewhat outside the centre of the old city.

The scientific program was intensive and more streamlined than in previous years. There were a relatively large number of longish (40 min) lectures. Four tutorials were presented to familiarize (Ph.D.) students and other newcomers with a certain research field within the scope of the conference, while ten state-of-the-art overviews allowed all delegates to gain a good impression of many aspects of the field. In addition, there were about 25 keynote lectures by invited speakers, more than 50 submitted oral presen-

tations, and close to 200 posters. Also, four one-day short courses were presented on the two days preceding the HTC-11 symposium.

A life-time-achievement award was presented to Prof. Pat Sandra from the University of Ghent and the RIC (Belgium), who has contributed massively to the development and the successful application of hyphenated techniques. The HTC award was won by Prof. Oliver Trapp from the Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg (Germany), for his highly innovative contributions on high-throughput multiplexing chromatography. Finally the HTC poster awards went to Jacqueline Hamilton from Alastair Lewis' group at the University of York (U.K.), Jeff Op De Beeck from Gert Desmet's group at the Free University of Brussels (Belgium) and Erwin Kaal, who worked for Hans-Gerd Janssen at the University of Amsterdam (The Netherlands).

Many people contributed to the success of the HTC-11 conference, including the scientific contributors and participants, the many representatives of instrument companies who exhibited their latest equipment, the organization team and – last but not least – the “workforce”. This latter word is a condensation of two simple nouns, work and force. Both were proven utterly appropriate.

Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Peter Schoenmakers