



## Foreword

The 36th International Symposium on High-Performance Liquid Phase Separations and Related Techniques was held in Budapest, Hungary on June 19–23, 2011. The series of HPLC Symposia started in 1973 and currently the symposium is held at least annually. It is organized in alternating years in locations in North America and in Europe. In addition, meetings are held in places outside of these territories, especially in Asia. It was for the first time that the most prestigious and largest meeting in the world dedicated to liquid-phase separations took place in Hungary and in that region of Europe as well. The HPLC 2011 Budapest Symposium was organized by the Hungarian Society for Separation Sciences—a scientific society that was established 15 years ago.

The HPLC 2011 Budapest Symposium attracted an unforeseen number of participants: 1374 scientists attended from a total of 51 countries. The symposium had a total of 134 orals in plenary and parallel sessions, as well as 789 posters. During the week, 13 vendor workshops, 9 tutorial educational lectures, and 6 three-hour short courses were presented. The tutorials were well attended and covered current topics such as hydrophilic interaction chromatography, SPME for liquid phase separations, capillary electrophoresis, HPLC–MS, nanofluidic devices, chemometrics and chromatographic fingerprints, characterizing chromatograms by dimensionality, supercritical fluid chromatography, and overpressured-layer chromatography.

The opening ceremony was followed by the award ceremony where prominent separation scientists were honored. The Hungarian Society for Separation Sciences established the Halász Medal Award in the memory of Professor István Halász, the extremely highly regarded separation scientist. The medal was awarded for the first time in 1997. The recipient of the Halász Medal Award in 2011 was Professor Gyula Vigh of the Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas, USA.

Professor Günther Bonn of the University of Innsbruck, Austria received the Csaba Horváth Memorial Award presented jointly by the Hungarian Society for Separation Sciences and the Connecticut Separation Science Council.

The 2011 Martin Gold Medal – the highest honor of the Chromatographic Society of the UK – was presented during the HPLC 2011 Budapest Symposium. Professor Peter Schoenmakers of the Faculty of Science, van't Hoff Institute for Molecular Sciences at the University of Amsterdam has been awarded the 2011 Chromatographic Society Martin Medal.

Scientists under the age of 35 were eligible to apply for the Csaba Horváth Young Scientists Award. Their lectures were judged by a panel of chromatography experts. The winner received an invitation and travel award to the next HPLC Symposium, and

has their name engraved on a trophy. When submitting their abstracts, 65 young scientists nominated themselves for the Csaba Horváth Young Scientist Award. Out of the 65 abstracts, 12 talks were selected and indicated in the final program as a candidate for the award. The winner of the Csaba Horváth Young Scientists Award was Matthias Verstraeten of the Free University of Brussels. The title of his presentation was “Novel Thermal Modulation for Multi-dimensional Liquid Chromatography Separations using Low-Thermal-Mass LC”. The poster awards were sponsored by Agilent Technologies. The awardee of the first prize was again Matthias Verstraeten. The title of the winner poster was “Switching from Constant Flow Rate to Constant Pressure Elution Mode”. Three special sessions were organized during the HPLC 2011 Budapest Symposium. On Monday afternoon we remembered Uwe Neue in a scientific session. Dr. Neue was always an active participant and lecturer of the HPLC Symposia until his untimely death in 2010.

A one day-long scientific session on Tuesday reunited the former students and co-workers of Csaba Horváth to present research results in three sessions based on ideas that Professor Csaba Horváth initiated.

On Wednesday, the seminal contribution of Professor Georges Guiochon of the University of Tennessee to the development of liquid chromatography was celebrated in two sessions devoted to the fundamental aspects of separations.

The topics of the Sunday short courses covered the pretreatment of biofluids for LC–MS/MS analysis of small molecules, the recent developments in (bio-)pharmaceutical analysis, mass spectrometry and its chromatography coupling, understanding the theory behind the practice of liquid chromatography, supercritical fluid chromatography in the pharmaceutical industry, and enantioselective liquid chromatography.

The plenary, keynote, and contributed lectures demonstrated the novel trends in liquid phase separations. The increasing popularity of sub-2- $\mu\text{m}$  and core-shell packing materials, the need for ultra high-performance liquid chromatography and for 2D separations set the theme for the sessions on particle and column technologies. With an equally important emphasis, the analysis and purification of biopharmaceuticals, biosimilars were discussed in the oral program.

As it is usually the case, the poster session was dominated by applications. The number of posters dealing with application of HPLC(–MS) methods to the analysis of pharmaceutical and natural products was overwhelming. This trend clearly demonstrates that the use of coupled techniques for the analysis of complex mixtures is becoming the standard.

The social program of the HPLC 2011 Budapest Symposium included the welcome and farewell receptions. Furthermore, an organ concert was held on Monday evening in the St. Stephen Basilica. The 200th anniversary of the birth of Ferenc Liszt – the Hungarian composer and virtuoso pianist – is celebrated in 2011. The program of the organ concert featured his works. The symposium dinner was held in the Lázár Equestrian Park where the Hungarian cuisine, hospitality, and entertainment were demonstrated in a friendly atmosphere.

The unexpected number of participants and contributed abstracts, as well as the overwhelming interest of sponsors and exhibitors demonstrates that in spite of the economic crisis, high-performance liquid chromatography and related techniques remain the leading technique of instrumental analysis with renewed interest.

The successful outcome of HPLC 2011 Budapest would not have been possible without the hard work of a number of colleagues. I would like to thank the dedicated work of the Organizing and Scientific Committees, especially Dr. Mária Gazdag, Prof. Peter Schoenmakers, Prof. Wolfgang Lindner, as well as the team of Diamond Congress Ltd.

The future of separation science seems to be bright. We all look forward to exchanging ideas at the further conferences of the HPLC series in Anaheim, Amsterdam, Hobart, New Orleans, and Geneva.

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Available online 14 February 2012