



Foreword

The Seventh Annual Frederick Conference on Capillary Electrophoresis was held at the campus of Hood College in Frederick, Maryland, USA, on October 21–23, 1996. The conference which is devoted to all aspects of capillary electrophoresis attracted 425 conferees from industry and academia in the United States, Canada, Europe and South America. The conference was preceded by a one-day course attended by 46 persons. This year's attendance in the conference was comparable to that of last year. The number of abstracts accepted was slightly higher than last year and dealt mostly with application of CE in different fields. This is encouraging and proves that CE is accepted as an analytical tool. The conference was divided into eight oral sessions and two days of poster sessions. Each oral session started with a 30 minute plenary lecture by an authority in his area followed by three or four 20 minute lectures. The Frederick CE Conference in the past encouraged graduate students to give an oral presentation of their research at the conference. This year, we devoted the Tuesday afternoon to young, predoctoral and postdoctoral investigators. The session was organized and chaired by Peter Gavin of Professor Andrew Ewing's group. The session consisted of eight lectures, 15 minutes each. Mr. Gavin did an excellent job in selecting the presenters and finding sponsors who contributed money for student travel. Such a session will be an integral part of the Frederick CE Conference in the future.

This year there were two discussion sessions. The Monday session dealt with "CE, biotechnology and pharmaceutical industry", while the one on Tuesday dealt with "CEC, who needs it?" Both sessions proved to be controversial and generated a lot of useful and lively discussion.

The award for outstanding contributions to the field of capillary electrophoresis went to Professor Barry L. Karger of Barnett Institute, Northeastern University, for his many outstanding contributions to capillary electrophoresis. Congratulations and continued success.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the authors, whose oral and poster presentations stimulated discussions and brought to light new ideas resulting in a most beneficial and enjoyable conference. I also would like to express my gratitude to our sponsors, the scientific and organizing committees, SAIC Frederick, and the administration of Hood College. Finally, I would like to thank all the attendees who contributed to the success of the conference.

Now, we are looking forward to next year's conference which will be held again at Hood College, October 20–22, 1997, preceded by the one-day course on October 19. We are looking forward to another successful and enjoyable scientific exchange of ideas.

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