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Preface

The 11th International Aqueous Two-Phase Partitioning conference was held June 27–July 2 in Gulf Shores, Alabama. The conference was very successful with 17 countries represented and 24 students in attendance. Scientifically, the conference was well balanced with 98 presentations, 52 oral and 46 posters.

The 1999 ATPS conference, while including the traditional conference themes, emphasized the differences and similarities between aqueous two phase partitioning and other separations technologies utilizing environmentally — benign polymers, such as cloud point extraction, micellar extraction, aqueous biphasic systems, and extractions using thermoseparating polymers. Similar chromatographic methods such as micellar liquid chromatography, micellar electrokinetic chromatography, aqueous biphasic extraction chromatography, and admicellar chromatography were also covered.

The conference considered the similarities, differences, advantages, and limitations of what may be considered a ‘tool box’ of environmentally-benign polymer separations techniques in order to take advantage of the wide range of fundamental and applied research opportunities in this area. In order to attempt to redress an imbalance in the common discussion of these systems, sessions discussed the common properties and features of some of these emerging separation technologies and thus, hopefully stimulated new thinking and avenues for research.

A highlight of the meeting was a panel discussion on Sunday to look at the differences, similarities and technical challenges of using environmentally-benign polymers in separations. Representative experts in aqueous two-phase partitioning, cloud point extraction, thermoseparating polymers, aqueous biphasic extraction chromatography, hydrophobic interaction chromatography, and micellar enhanced ultrafiltration gave short presentations followed by an active morning of discussion.

The conference outing to Mobile and Bellangrath Gardens allowed our foreign visitors to get some of the flavor and history of south Alabama. The conference banquet was held poolside by the beach at a new condominium complex, the Beach Club Resort. The latter culminated in the singing of the the 11th ATPS Conference Song written by Göte Johansson on his selection as the 1999 Biennial ATPS Awardee.

Three conference awards were presented:

- *The 1999 Biennial Aqueous Two Phase Partitioning Award*, for outstanding contributions to the practice and understanding of partitioning in Aqueous Two-Phase Systems went to Professor Göte Johansson of the Department of Biochemistry at Lund University in Sweden.
- *The 1999 Biennial Aqueous Two Phase Partitioning Student Oral Presentation Award* went to Kristina Berggren of the Department of Biochemistry at Lund University in Sweden. Runner-ups included Daniel T. Kamei (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), Josefine Persson (Lund University), and Irene Barinaga-Rementería Ramírez (Lund University).
- *The 1999 Biennial Aqueous Two Phase Partitioning Student Poster Presentation Award*, went to Sheryl Fernandes of the Department of Biotechnology at Lund University in Sweden. Runner-ups included Grant A. Broker (The University of Alabama) and Marika Murto (Lund University).

The conference website at URL: <http://bama.ua.edu/~rdrogers/aq2phase/11thconf.html> contains the final program, abstracts, awards, sponsor list, and even conference photos and the conference song.

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