

Preface

The 28th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society for Biomedical Mass Spectrometry (JSBMS) was held on September 25 and 26, 2003 at Hotel Concorde Hamamatsu, Hamamatsu, Japan.

This year, we have shortened the meeting period from 3 to 2 days to lighten the burden of participants leading very busy lives, and also to economize the expenses required for the meeting. We did hope that the contents of our meeting would become more condensed with more active discussions; we think that our intent has been realized successfully.

As another characteristic of this meeting in Hamamatsu, no symposium session on a specific subject was held, because of our policy that scientists from every biomedical field related to mass spectrometry should join altogether to present original papers at free communication sessions at our meeting. Instead, Workshop I entitled "Pretreatments and automation for biological specimens" was held; such techniques were considered very important for all participants being engaged in biomedical mass spectrometry.

On the first day of our meeting, we had an invited lecture entitled "Screening of high-risk neonates for IEM by GC/MS in India: the first step towards newborn screening" by Dr. Usha P. Dave from Bombay, India. On the second day, a special lecture entitled "Drug facilitated sexual assault (DFSA) and toxicological analysis: testing for the undetectable by mass spectrometry" was given by Dr. Pascal Kintz

from Strasbourg, France, who is one of the most outstanding scientists in the field of forensic toxicology in the world. After his excellent presentation, active discussions were made between audience and the speaker mainly on the usefulness of hair analysis.

In the afternoon of the second day, Workshop II entitled "New technologies of mass spectrometry in biomedical fields" was held; five delegates from the manufacturers of mass spectrometers and related instrumentations presented updated techniques in this field.

It was our pleasure that Dr. Koichi Tanaka, the winner of Nobel Prize in chemistry 2002 and also a member of our Society, attended our meeting and gave a little speech for encouraging Dr. Ayako Miyazaki, the winner of Young Scientist Award of our Society 2003; his encouragement was also directed towards all of participants of our meeting.

Finally, we thank all participants of the meeting and those who contributed excellent papers in this special issue.

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