

Editorial

From nanoseparations to macropurifications

The 9th International Symposium on Biochromatography entitled “From nanoseparations to macropurifications” was held at the Victor Segalen Bordeaux 2 University located in the Aquitaine Region in the South West of France from 5 to 7 May 2004. The meeting which was organised by the Society for Biochromatography and Nanoseparations marked the 10th anniversary of the Ecole Supérieure de Technologie des Biomolécules de Bordeaux, and given the nature of the research undertaken by the Ecole, it was highly fitting that this institution was the host for the meeting.

The meeting attracted participation by approximately 120 delegates who braved unseasonably showery weather to enjoy a full and widely-varied scientific programme. As might be gleaned from the title of the meeting the range of topics under discussion was extensive. However, it is always important to remember that the scale of the separation is far less important than the principles underlying the selectivity of the technique which leads to required separation. Meetings which concentrate exclusively on either analytical scale or preparative scale separations do not allow the opportunity for scientists from the opposite ends of these scales to get together and interchange ideas. This meeting did afford such opportunities and typical examples of the different scales under consideration included single bead screening for combinatorial libraries and expanded bed adsorption for preparative protein purifi-

cation. Some of the excitement of the meeting is captured in the papers that appear in this special issue of the journal.

Due praise must be given to the chairman of the Symposium, Xavier Santarelli, and his colleagues on the organising committee for their success in putting together the programme and attracting the participation of well-respected scientists in these areas. Without this level of commitment, meetings of this type would simply not be a success.

An exhibition of some of the latest techniques and equipment underpinned the scientific content of the meeting and gave some of the leading companies in this area an opportunity to display the practical realities of Biochromatography under debate.

The highlight of the social programme was a visit to the vineyard at Chateau Bertinerie in the Cotes de Blaye. A tour around the Chateau revealed the secrets of how the wine was produced and stored. A practical session in which the house wine was tasted was accompanied by an extensive dinner. I had the dubious pleasure of giving the first plenary lecture on the morning after.

Cambridge, UK

H.A. Chase

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