

Preface

The 10th International Symposium on Biochromatography organized by the Society of BioChromatography and Nanoseparations (SBCN) continued the tradition of the previous meeting with high-level scientific presentations, enthusiastic participation, and a warm atmosphere. This time the symposium was held from 26–28 April 2006 on the campus of the University of Sciences and Technologies of Lille at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Chimie de Lille, in Lille, France. The meeting offered an excellent opportunity to bring together more than 120 scientists working at universities, public research organizations and industries from all over the world. These included many European countries, as well as countries from Asia (Japan, India, Taiwan and Malaysia). Representatives from North Africa countries were also present.

The scientific program was based on oral presentations, poster sessions, as well as companies exhibition. The conference addressed recent developments in a variety of emerging fields, from fundamental concepts to application across all the branches of chromatography from nanoseparation to macropurification, and from small molecules to biomolecules. More precisely, seven sessions were planned: (i) Theory of chromatography, modelization and miniaturization, (ii) Preparative chromatography, (iii) New stationary phases, (iv) Electrically driven separation, (v) Biomolecules (metabolomics, genomics, proteomics, . . .), (vi) Small molecules (food, environmental, chirality, . . .) and (vii) Young scientists in biochromatography Session. This scientific program included 75 papers from the oral and poster sessions. Forty-three posters provided space and time for direct discussions in small groups on all aspects of separation methods.

During each oral session, prominent and recognised experts in the field gave an overview of the basic principles, methods, developments and applications in the field of: Application of chemically modified surfaces in determination of biologically active compounds (Boguslaw Buszewski, Poland), Unravelling the carbohydrate-mediated recognition of marine sponge cells using glyconanotechnology (Adriana Carvalho de Souza, Johannes Kamerling, The Netherlands), Computational fluid dynamics simulations to understand the relation between the morphology of LC supports and their kinetic performance (Gert Desmet, Belgium), Novel generic Acquity UPLC/MS/MS method with automatic optimization for high throughput analysis during permeability assessment in early drug discovery (Jurgen Mensch, Belgium), Automated on-line and off-line multidimensional

LC methods for analysis of complex samples (Claude Netter, France), HPLC on a chip coupled with mass spectrometry: a versatile and robust methodology for analysis in molecular biology (Gerard Rozing, Germany), Towards high resolution in fluid-based separation techniques for small and macro molecules (Pat Sandra, Belgium), Hydroxyapatite, mode of action and use to optimize protein purification (Francois Schwind, Belgium).

An international jury reviewed oral presentations presented by young scientists (PhD or post-doctoral students) to select two award-winning papers. The presentations were presented in a dedicated session on Thursday morning, April 27. These SBCN2006-Awards, sponsored by Pall Corporation, were presented to Dr. Sandeep Kale of the Institute of Chemical Technology, Mumbai, India, for his oral presentation “Continuous countercurrent adsorption for protein purification using liquid solid circulating fluidized bed (LSCFB)”, and to Bing Luo of the Institute of Biotechnology, Jülich, Germany, for her oral contribution: “Determination of ^{13}C isotopomer distributions in central carbon metabolism by LC–MS–MS”.

In order to create a friendly atmosphere and to promote personal contacts, a full social program was proposed to the attendees including an evening welcome reception with a tasting of the famous Belgian beers and a gala dinner in a cellar dating back to the 18th century.

On behalf of the organizing committee we would like to thank the speakers and the participants for their engagement, all sponsors for their support and the editors of *Journal of Chromatography B* for agreeing to publish this special edition.

The next SBCN Meeting (11th SBCN Symposium) will take place in the sunny city of Montpellier in May 2008. Further information together with some pictorial memories of SBCN 2006 is available on the conference website at: <http://sbcn2008.free.fr/SBCN2008/SBCN%202008/Bienvenue.html>.

Cécile Cren-Olivé*,¹
Villeneuve d'Ascq Cedex, France

* Tel.: +33 4 78 02 22 43.

E-mail address: Cecile.Cren@univ-lille1.fr

¹ Chairperson of 10th International Symposium on Biochromatography.

Available online 27 July 2006