

Preface

The 2007 International Symposium for Biochromatography and Nanotechnologies organized by Professor M.A. Vijayalakshmi from VIT University-Centre for Bioseparation Technology (CBST-VIT) (India) and Compiègne University of Technology (France) and Professor X. Santarelli from Society of Biochromatography and NanoSeparation (SBCN) and ESTBB, Bordeaux 2 University (France) continued the tradition of the previous meetings organized by them with high-level scientific presentations, enthusiastic participation and a friendly atmosphere.

This time, the symposium was held from 12 to 15 February 2007 in the beautiful and green campus of the Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT University) (Vellore, Tamil Nadu, India) where all delegates were received and hosted with great warmth by the founder and Chancellor Mr. G. Viswanathan and his team. The meeting offered an excellent opportunity to bring together more than 150 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 and USA.

The symposium with the aim of disseminating the concept of “gene to vial” a very needed field in today’s industrial scenario, covered the upstream and the downstream aspects of biotechnology health care molecules. Sessions on protein expression and refolding, basics of Biochromatography leading to concepts and processes, nanotechnological approaches for product analysis, stabilization, etc., were focussed. Biomarker studies using cutting edge chromatographic techniques and their clinical relevance were discussed. The highlights of the symposium were the two key note lecture by Professor M. Vijayan, IISc., Bangalore, India, and Professor D. Thomas, UTC, Compiègne, France, followed by 23 plenary lectures, 23 presentations and 34 posters.

We have noticed the enthusiastic participation of the young Indian scientists which improved the discussion all along the symposium.

In order to create a friendly atmosphere and to promote personal contacts, a full social program was proposed to the attendees every evening with reception with a tasting of the famous Indian food and Indian dances.

An SBCN jury reviewed oral presentations presented by young scientists (Ph.D. or post-doctoral students) to select two award-winning papers. The first prize Mr. A.S. Kamalanathan from CBST, VIT University, Vellore, India, was invited free of charge to the 10th International Symposium on Biochromatography organized by SBCN at Montpellier, France, in 2008 (<http://sbcn2008.free.fr/Montpellier/SBCN2008/Bienvenue.html>).

The second prize was attributed to Mr. Amit Khanna, from Manipal College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Manipal, India. This was a cash prize.

In addition to the highly informative lectures and posters on the latest developments in these areas, this conference also provided an ideal platform for informal exchange of experiences, much appreciated by the participants. The instrument display which accompanied the symposium demonstrated state-of-the-art technological advances.

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

M.A. Vijayalakshmi^{a,b}

^a VIT-University (CBST-VIT), Tamil Nadu, India

^b Compiègne University of Technology, France

X. Santarelli*

SBCN and ESTBB-Bordeaux 2 University, France

* Corresponding author.

Available online 1 July 2007