

Editorial

10th Birthday of the European Conferences of GP2A—Nantes 2001

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The Groupement des Pharmacochimistes de l'Arc Atlantique (GP2A) was born in Nantes in 1990, at the instigation of Prof. Loïc Sparfel and Prof. Guillaume LeBaut who took advantage of the creation of the Atlantic Arc Commission in the framework of the CPMR by including research and teaching in Medicinal Chemistry into the priorities of inter-regional cooperation. Since the beginning, a study group had been constituted mostly on the basis of previously existing bilateral relations between Spanish (Santiago de Compostelle, Salamanque) French (Bordeaux, Limoges, Poitiers, Angers, Nantes, Rennes, Caen) British (Cardiff, Portsmouth) and Portuguese (Coimbra) labs in the framework of either ERASMUS or research collaboration programmes. This group met several times and decided to hold a scientific meeting every year in the shape of GP2A European conferences.

Then, progressively, the scientific area was broadened to regions, which were not located stricto sensu in the Atlantic Arc, or its bordering regions. Thus, colleagues from Strathclyde, Nottingham, Bradford, Bath, Sarrebrücken, Lille, Reims, Orléans, Tours, La Rochelle and Vittoria joined the network and took part in its activities.

Recently, owing to the organizations of scientific meetings, GP2A had drawn closer to the laboratories belonging to the group which organized the "Journées Franco-Belges de Pharmacochimie" (JFBP). Consequently, the first "mixed congress" was organized in 1998, so that, today, its scientific activities and exchanges have involved 40 European

Laboratories. The circle is, of course, open to any external participation and this year it has been widened by the participation of the Universities of Valencia (Spain) and Kaiserslauten (Germany).

The content of the present special issue to the "Journal of Enzyme Inhibition and Medicinal Chemistry" illustrates the works of the researchers who took part in the GP2A 10th Conference which was organized this year in Nantes, the founder city.

In 2002, like in 1998, the congress was joined with the JFBP again. It took place in the heart of Normandy, in Bagnoles de l'Orne, where new works will be presented, new prizes awarded, new exchanges created and new distinctions given to young researchers thus testifying to the vitality of research in the field to the *Medicinal Chemistry in the Atlantic Arc*.

GP2A members are very grateful to the team at Nantes and more particularly to our colleague Marc Le Borgne who was entrusted with the tender task of coordinating the preparation of all the manuscripts and of carrying the publication of this special issue through to a successful conclusion.

The European Conferences took place in Bordeaux 1992, Caen 1993, Cardiff 1994, Angers 1995, Glasgow 1996, Rennes 1997, Caen 1998, Cardiff 1999, Tours 2000, Nantes 2001 and Caen 2002.

At the moment the GP2A officiating members are:

President: S. Rault (Caen),

Vice-President: I. Blackborough (Bath),

Secretary: G. LeBaut (Nantes) and

Treasurer: O. Duval (Angers).