

Editorial

12th European Conference of GP2A—La Rochelle 2003

MARC LE BORGNE*

The “Groupement des Pharmacochimistes de l’Arc Atlantique” (GP2A) or Pharmacochimistry Grouping of the Atlantic Arc is a study group on research and teaching in Medicinal Chemistry created in 1992. It gathers pharmacochimists working in Faculties of Pharmacy or Science and located in the different Regions of the Atlantic Arc in the United Kingdom, France, Spain and Portugal. More recently this grouping has welcomed new members who do not belong *stricto sensu* to this area (such as Lille), in the framework of the GP2A network. At the instigation of the founding members, it was decided to hold a scientific meeting every year in the shape of a GP2A Conference. It constitutes a focus for the exchange of ideas among scientists (including undergraduates) interested in basic research in medicinal chemistry but also in special areas of research in drug design including combinatorial chemistry, quantitative structure-activity relationships and molecular modelling; it gives an opportunity, especially to young scientists, for the strengthening and extension of their collaboration and exchange programmes. The circle is open to any external participation and is mainly constituted on the basis of previously existing bilateral cooperations between various Laboratories. In 2003, the Congress took place in La Rochelle (a University of Poitou-Charente) and was organized by the “Laboratoire de Biotechnologie

et Chimie Bioorganique”. The University of La Rochelle, opened in 1993, is the youngest in France; the first stone was laid by François Mitterand and Helmut Kohl. At the start of the year 2004, there were 7,000 students in La Rochelle and innovative courses in sciences, business law and the Asian-Pacific world are offered.

The meeting was joined with the “Journée du Comité de Charente-Maritime de la Ligue contre le Cancer”. The main topic of the 2003 meeting concerned new targets and the strategies recently engaged in the fight against cancer.

The GP2A members are very grateful to Marc Le Borgne and Guillaume Le Baut (Nantes) who coordinated the preparation of all manuscripts and carried the publication of this issue through to a successful conclusion.

The GP2A Conferences took place in Bordeaux 1992, Caen 1993, Cardiff 1994, Angers 1995, Glasgow 1996, Rennes 1997, Caen 1998, Cardiff 1999, Tours 2000, Nantes 2001, Caen 2002 and La Rochelle 2003.

Currently, the GP2A staff members are: Sylvain Rault (President, Caen), Gérald Guillamet (Vice-President, Orléans), Esther Caballero (Vice-President, Salamanca), Guillaume Le Baut (General Secretary, Nantes), Marc Le Borgne (Assistant Secretary, Nantes), Olivier Duval (Treasurer, Angers) and Frédéric Fabis (Assistant Treasurer, Caen).

*E-mail: marc.leborgne@sante.univ-nantes.fr