

Editorial

7th Conference on Methods and Applications of Fluorescence: Spectroscopy, Imaging and Probes

The contributions in this issue reflect the exciting scientific progress made in the fluorescence field. The papers are contributed by participants of the 7th Conference on Methods and Applications of Fluorescence: Spectroscopy, Imaging and Probes (MAF), held in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, September 16-19, 2001. The devastating events of September 11, 2001 in the United States prevented almost all speakers from the United States from attending, because transatlantic air traffic was suspended during that week. Despite this tragedy the conference was interesting and took place in a relaxed atmosphere. A complete program could be presented thanks to speakers who were willing to replace the U.S. speakers at very short notice. All of these concerted efforts of organizers and participants, the high quality of the talks, and the lively poster sessions made this 7th MAF conference a great success. The 360 participants from 35 countries at the Amsterdam meeting demonstrate the growing interest in fluorescence techniques. In addition, the active participation of fluorescence-related companies has stimulated fruitful interaction between fundamental and applied research in a pleasant setting. Most of the contributions dealt with multiple topics and applications of fluorescence. Roughly, four main parts could be distinguished: (1) fluorescence spectroscopy: new approaches and probes; (2) fluorescence spectroscopy of single molecules and molecular assemblies; (3) applications of fluorescence in biological membrane- and enzyme studies; (4) fluorescence microscopic imaging techniques and their application for the study of living cells. The previous conference series on Fluorescence Microscopy and Fluorescent Probes, so successfully organized by Jan Slavik in Prague, Czech Republic, was merged with the MAF series after Jan Slavik's untimely death in January 1999. It is therefore a privilege to announce that the 8th MAF meeting will take place in Prague on August 24-27, 2003. Details can be found on the following website: <http://fluorescence.fjfi.cvut.cz>

Antonie J.W.G. Visser (co-chairman 7th MAF meeting)

The Scientific and Organizing Committee of the 7th Conference on Methods and Applications of Fluorescence: Spectroscopy, Imaging and Probes gratefully acknowledges the sponsors and exhibitors, that financially supported the conference:

Amersham Pharmacia Biotech, The Netherlands
ATTO-TEC GmbH, Germany
BERTHOLD TECHNOLOGIES GmbH & Co KG,
Germany
Beun-de Ronde BV, The Netherlands
BFi OPTiLAS BV, The Netherlands
BIO-RAD Microscience Ltd, United Kingdom
BMG Labtechnologies GmbH, Germany
Byk Nederland BV, The Netherlands
Carl Zeiss NV, Belgium, and Carl Zeiss Jena
GmbH, Germany
City of Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Coherent BV, The Netherlands
Chroma Technology Corp, USA
DSM Food Specialties, The Netherlands
Evotec OAI, Germany
IBH, United Kingdom
ISS, USA
Jobin Yvon SA, France
Kluwer Academic Publishers, The Netherlands
Lambert Instruments, The Netherlands
LaVision BioTec GmbH, Germany
Leica Microsystems, The Netherlands
L'ORÉAL Recherche Avancée, France
Molecular Devices, United Kingdom
Molecular Probes Europe BV, The Netherlands
Netherlands Society for Biochemistry and Molecular
Biology Organon NV, The Netherlands
Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research
Photon Technology International Inc. (PTI), USA
PicoQuant GmbH, Germany
Scientific Volume Imaging, The Netherlands
Unilever Research, The Netherlands
Unilever Research, United Kingdom
Varian Analytical Instruments, The Netherlands
Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Inst. Mol. Biol. Sc.