

Meeting Overview

The Ninth International Symposium on the Synthesis and Applications of Isotopes and Isotopically Labelled compounds was held from 16th to the 20th July 2006 at the Edinburgh International Exhibition Centre (EICC). This was the first time that the symposium had been held in the UK and it was a great privilege for the UK Group to host this important event. Edinburgh is an historic, dynamic capital with a lively cosmopolitan and cultured atmosphere which provided an excellent setting for the conference. Over 300 scientists representing 28 countries attended. Accompanying guests and exhibitors brought the total attendance to 368.

The symposium was opened on Monday morning with welcome remarks from Ken Lawrie, Chair of the Organizing Committee. The scientific programme consisted of four plenary, 75 oral presentations and approximately 160 posters. The plenary lectures were presented by Justin De Bois (Stanford), Yu-Shin Ding (Yale), Andrew Hamilton (Yale) and James Lynch (AstraZeneca). The four-day programme was divided into 11 parallel sessions continuing the traditions of the previous symposia, with a strong focus on recent trends and innovations. In contrast to earlier symposia the previously separate sessions on tritium, carbon-14 and stable isotopes were combined into a two-day

session with a mixture of presentations each day. Importantly, in addition to the formal scientific programme the symposium provided a forum for the broad community of isotope chemists to meet and exchange ideas. The Poster Session and Reception on Tuesday evening provided a convivial atmosphere for these discussions.

The two highlights of the social programme were the Welcome Reception on Sunday in the exhibition hall of the EICC and the Scottish themed Conference Banquet at the Dynamic Earth Museum. During the banquet, the Melvin Calvin award was presented jointly to Mike Welch and Bengt Langstrom for their pioneering work on the development of PET tracers, and the IIS Award to Ulrich Pleiss for his many contributions to the IIS, and in particular the Central European Chapter, over many years.

Many people contributed their time and efforts to organizing and running this symposium and their names appear in various places in these proceedings. The Conference Secretariat, Margaret Sherry, Lisa Brandeschi and their colleagues at In-Conference provided invaluable logistical support. On behalf of the organizing committee I give them all unqualified thanks.

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