

## Editorial

# The *Journal of Peptide Science* – Special Issue dedicated to the 10th Naples workshop on Bioactive Peptides

The tenth edition of the Naples Workshop on Bioactive Peptides was held in Napoli, Italy, at the Centro Congressi d'Ateneo of the University of Napoli 'Federico II' from June 11 to 14, 2006. The meeting had an attendance of 150 peptide scientists from 16 different countries from all over the world. The meeting was organized by the Dipartimento delle Scienze Biologiche and the Centro Interuniversitario di Ricerca sui Peptidi Bioattivi (CIRPEB) of the University of Napoli 'Federico II', by the Second University of Napoli, by the Istituto di Biostrutture e Bioimmagini of the C.N.R. of Italy, and by the Centro Regionale di Competenza in 'Diagnostica e Farmaceutica Molecolari'. The workshop was held under the auspices of the European and the American Peptide Societies and the Regione Campania Assessorato all'Università ed alla Ricerca Scientifica.

The theme of the workshop was 'Conformation activity relationships in peptides and interactions with biomolecules: the legacy of Murray Goodman'.

This edition of the workshop was for various reasons a special one: it was in fact the first edition of the workshop held in Napoli, while all previous ones were held on the island of Capri. The organizers wanted to give a sign of discontinuity because the tenth edition was the first in which the late Prof. Murray Goodman did not participate. In fact, as is well known, 2 years ago on June 1st Prof. Murray Goodman passed away in München during a visit to the Max Planck Institut für Biochemie in Martinsried. Only 3 weeks before his death he participated, for the last time, as a distinguished member of the Scientific Committee, as an invited speaker and as a Chairman of one of the sessions of the 9th Naples Workshop, held in Capri from May 8 to 11. It was on the island of Capri that on May 10th, 2004, he gave his very last lecture on 'Protein Mimetics'. After the workshop he flew to Munich, where 2 weeks later he died.

The tenth edition was therefore dedicated to his memory and among the participants many were his former PhD students, collaborators and friends. At the opening ceremony, the sigillum of the University

of Napoli 'Federico II' was given by the Chairman to his wife Zelda, together with a plaque in recognition of the support given by Murray to the Italian Peptide Community and in particular to the Napoli and Padova research groups.

The scientific programme of lectures and poster presentations amply covered the topic of the workshop. A total of 19 invited lectures and 9 short oral presentations were given in the 2-days meeting. Poster presentations also enriched the programme.

The manuscripts collected in this issue are merely representative of the many different aspects of peptide chemistry presented at the workshop.

The scientific content of these presentations certainly gives in short a rough idea of the state of the art in several specific aspects of the topics covered at the workshop. The investigations presented are indeed examples of emerging subjects, which highlight the field of continuously increasing biologically important and 'man-made' peptide systems. One common feature, which ideally connected the different subjects covered, concerns the 'molecular approach' used by the various authors in tackling the problem of understanding the structure-activity relationships of bioactive peptide and their interactions with biomolecules.

The meeting once again proved to be a highly successful forum for the exchange of ideas on hot subjects and trends in peptide chemistry and an important and decisive stimulus for future work in the area.

In spite of the stimulating scientific contents of the highly attended sessions, participants had the occasion of enjoying, beside science, the beauty of the venue, constituted not only by the natural setting of the city, but also by the history, culture and art of Napoli, and the social occasions offered by the Organizing Committee.

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