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Editorial

This issue of the *Journal of Peptide Science* is dedicated to a limited number of scientific contributions originated from the '11th Naples Workshop on Bioactive Peptides', held in Napoli, Italy, at the Centro Congressi d'Ateneo of the University of Napoli 'Federico II' during 24–27 May 2008.

The 11th edition of the workshop had an extraordinary attendance of 197 peptide scientists from 21 different countries from all over the world. The meeting had been organized as a joint effort by several scientific institutions such as the Dipartimento delle Scienze Biologiche and the Centro Interuniversitario di Ricerca sui Peptidi Bioattivi (CIRPEB) of the University of Napoli 'Federico II', the Second University of Napoli, the Istituto di Biostrutture e Bioimmagini of the C.N.R. of Italy and the Centro Regionale di Competenza in 'Diagnostica e Farmaceutica Molecolari'. The workshop was held under the auspices of the European Peptide Society and the Regione Campania Assessorato all'Università ed alla Ricerca Scientifica.

The theme of the workshop for the 11th edition was '*New frontiers in the search of bioactive molecules: from peptides to drugs*'.

The scientific program of invited lectures, and oral and poster presentations amply covered the topic of the workshop. The workshop opened with a very rich session dedicated to the 'Murray Goodman Young Investigator's Session', in which 11 short lectures were presented by young scientists competing for a prize represented by a copy of the Houben Weyl workbench edition E22 of 'Synthesis of Peptides and Peptidomimetics', sponsored by G. Thieme Verlag. The session proved to be an important stage for the 11 very talented young scientists, being appreciated very much by the audience for the scientific content of the lectures and the way they were presented.

A total of 19 invited lectures and 11 short oral presentations were given in the remaining two days of the workshop. Furthermore, a rather substantial number of poster presentations (91) also enriched the program, covering the various aspects of peptides as therapeutics, diagnostics and vaccines, once again well in line with the topic of the workshop.

In short, the scientific content of the invited lectures, and short oral and poster presentations certainly gave a rough idea of the state of the art in several specific aspects of the topic of the workshop; the investigations presented were indeed representative examples of emerging subjects, which highlighted the field of continuously increasing biologically important and 'man-made' peptide systems. Two common features, which ideally connected the different subjects covered, were first the 'molecular approach' used by the various authors in tackling the problem of understanding the structure–activity relationships of bioactive peptide, and secondly the final goal of each research – always focussing on a useful application of the investigated molecules.

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.

As the guest editor of this issue and the organizer of the workshop, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who had contributed for organizing the workshop and those who provided generous support: the University of Naples 'Federico II', The Second University of Naples, The Istituto di Biostrutture and Bioimmagini of the CNR of Italy, C.I.R.Pe.B., The European Peptide Society, aapptec, Bachem AG, Varian Italia SpA, Waters SpA.

In spite of the unusual unstable weather of Naples in late spring, the participants had the occasion of not only enjoying science, but also the city with its museums, monuments and natural beauty and the social occasions offered by the Organizing Committee. To continue the successful series of the workshop, the 12th edition has already been scheduled to be held at the Centro Congressi d'Ateneo of the University of Naples 'Federico II' on 5–7 June 2010; all interested readers are cordially invited to participate in this next exciting event!

Ettore Benedetti
Guest Editor
University of Naples,
Naples, Italy.