

Editorial

The newly refurbished Palau de Congressos in Barcelona was the magnificent setting for the “International Symposium on Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Analysis”, organized from 23 to 25 September 1987 by Professor Emilio Gelpí and colleagues in Spain. The strength of the scientific developments in the field of pharmaceutical analysis is evidenced by the presentation of 256 papers at this Symposium, which was attended by more than 350 participants from throughout the scientific world.

Since the International Scientific Committee, chaired by the late Dr C.A. Johnson, had decided that there should be only one lecture stream, the great majority of the original scientific papers were presented as posters. Indeed, the quality of the poster sessions met the highest expectations, so that the extended discussions around the posters formed the central focus of the Symposium itself.

Rather different in style were the parallel discussion sessions based on themes put forward by the delegates themselves — topics ranged from laboratory automation through to sample preparation for bioanalysis. The high standards set by these discussion sessions were reflected in the lecture presentations, introduced with an opening plenary on “Current Perspectives in Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Analysis”, by Professor J.F.K. Huber. These lectures aimed at giving an authoritative review of current developments in computer-aided methods, modern chromatography, analytical spectroscopy and new technologies such as flow-injection analysis and chiral separations.

This Symposium was originally conceived some 5 years earlier by members of the Editorial Board, and succeeded in bringing together a very broad cross-section of pharmaceutical scientists in an exciting venue enlivened by a superb social programme. This ended in characteristic Spanish style with a magnificent Symposium Banquet on the top of Tibidabo Hill overlooking Barcelona. Professor Emilio Gelpí and his colleagues are to be warmly congratulated on their excellent work in organizing this high-quality meeting in Barcelona. It is a pleasure and privilege to bring together some 70 of the papers presented in this special Symposium issue of the journal. In this respect, the valuable contribution of many of the Associate Editors of the journal is acknowledged, as is the assistance of those many scientists who gave generously of their time to review the manuscripts at the Symposium itself. It is hoped that the excellent foundation laid by Professor Gelpí and his colleagues in establishing this symposium series will be of value when the Symposium moves to other centres in Europe and North America in future years.

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