

## Editorial

This international symposium on current aspects of liquid chromatography in the biomedical sciences was organized in Bradford, UK, under the auspices of the Chromatographic Society. The structure of this short meeting took the format of five lecture sessions, integrated with a poster session and a number of round-table workshop discussions, led by groups of invited speakers. The lecture sessions and the poster session covered most of the mainstream developments in the field, from recent advances in the technology of columns and detectors in LC, through chiral separation technology, sample pretreatment for bioanalysis, to applications in monitoring downstream processing for biotechnology plus a review of the state-of-the-art in therapeutic drug monitoring.

This symposium issue brings together some of the many papers presented. Excellent though many of the lecture presentations were, there is no doubt that the highlight of the meeting was the session of evening workshop discussions, where groups of 10–15 delegates discussed a particular theme in depth, with internationally renowned scientists serving as Discussion Leaders on themes as diverse as ‘Chiral Separations’, ‘Strategies for Bioanalytical Sample Preparation’, ‘Computer-aided Methods in the Pharmaceutical Industry’ and ‘Method Development for Therapeutic Drug Monitoring’. Although part of the success enjoyed by this experiment was probably attributable to the copious volumes of wine, beer and soft drinks generously provided by the organizers, the major factor was surely the high level of relevant discussion between delegates and speakers. Given the limited opportunities for meaningful discussion provided by the average international meeting, it does seem clear that this concept of small-group discussion with delegates and international experts has a lot to recommend it — with or without the liquid encouragement!

The symposium was rounded off by an excellent banquet at the Norfolk Gardens Hotel in Bradford, where delegates and invited lecturers had a further opportunity for relaxed and informal discussion.

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