

Editorial

Antwerp's reputation as a centre of culture and the arts, of innovations in printing, of beautiful old buildings and pleasant streets, and as the former home of celebrated painters and artisans, formed an excellent background to the "International Symposium on Drug Analysis" held from 16-19 May 1989. This third meeting in the series followed two successful Symposia held earlier in Brussels, as reported in *J. Pharm. Biomed. Anal.* Vol. 1, pp. 381-572 (1983) and Vol. 4, pp. 685-834 (1986).

Whether judged by the number of papers presented (63 oral, mostly in parallel sessions, and no fewer than 166 poster presentations), or by the number of delegates registered and attending (some 350 or more from all over the world), the Antwerp Symposium was a resounding success and demonstrated very clearly the continuing strength of analytical research and development in all branches of the pharmaceutical sciences.

The Société Belge des Sciences Pharmaceutiques, in partnership with the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of Antwerp, are to be congratulated for establishing a wide-ranging and very topical scientific programme, and for inviting a number of new scientific personalities to give fresh and stimulating overviews on the main symposium themes concerning the various aspects of drug analysis. The strength of the scientific programme itself is evidenced in the present Symposium Proceedings issue of the Journal, which brings together more than 80 papers covering the breadth of pharmaceutical sciences presented at this Symposium. In terms of publishing records, the present Proceedings issue with more than 600 pages, represents one of the most comprehensive and wide-ranging collections of papers covering all aspects of pharmaceutical analysis, to have appeared in the refereed literature. Thanks are due to the panel of 50 or more distinguished Referees, who kindly gave of their time at the Symposium itself to screen the majority of manuscripts presented, to the Authors for the care with which they revised their manuscripts, and to the international Team of Editors, who collaborated energetically in bringing this Antwerp issue together.

As one has grown to expect with this Belgian series of Symposia, the social programme was carefully devised to reflect the historical and cultural treasures of this fine city — including a Baroque Concert in the former home of Rubens, a guided tour of Antwerp, where one of the highlights was the visit to the Printing Workshops (still functioning occasionally) of that ancient master of printing, Plantin, whose celebrated map of the City of Antwerp is printed opposite. The Symposium Dinner was held in the magnificently restored Hall of St. Elizabeth Hospital, built in 1238 and one of the oldest hospitals still in regular use in Europe. This splendid occasion rounded off a very active week in great style, leaving delegates with many a pleasant memory of this ancient city to take home with them at the end of the week.

This was a fine Symposium, both scientifically and socially, well organized by the Antwerp Team, under the chairmanship of Professor Achiel Haemers, and well balanced scientifically by the Scientific Committee chaired by the President of the SBSPP, Professor

Gaston Patriarche. As Editors of this international journal, it is our privilege to have collaborated with the Société Belge des Sciences Pharmaceutiques in publishing both the invited and contributed papers presented at this successful Symposium in Antwerp. Clearly the Belgian Organizers have created an expectation among the scientific community that this excellent series should continue, with a further Symposium in 3 years' time on advances in drug analysis.

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