

Editorial

The historic City of York, illustrated in the 18th century engraving printed opposite, served as the venue for the "Second International Symposium on Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Analysis". This was organized from 4 to 7 April 1990 by the International Committee of senior Editorial members, in collaboration with the Chromatographic Society. This meeting followed the successful Symposium held in Barcelona, Spain in September, 1987 (as reported in *J. Pharm. Biomed. Anal.* Vol. 6, pp. 531–1068, 1988). The continuing strength of developments in the field of pharmaceutical and biomedical analysis was indicated by the attendance of over 400 delegates from throughout the scientific world, and the presentation of 185 papers covering a wide range of topics.

The beautiful lake-side setting of York University campus presented a fine backdrop for staging the Symposium, which continued the model developed at Barcelona in focusing strongly on Poster Presentations as the central scientific activity, supported by a single, high-quality stream of Oral Presentations. An innovation developed in York was the parallel Poster Discussion Sessions, one series being held on each day, when the Poster authors were invited to present their key results as a series of five-minute "Blitz Presentations".

This format gave an excellent forum for discussion by small groups of delegates, under the chairmanship of international experts in each area, and it enabled a very wide range of topics to be covered, including: *Bioanalysis of drugs and endogenous materials; Sample pretreatment and automated drug bioanalysis; Pharmacokinetics and drug metabolism; Immunoassay and immunochemistry of drugs; Separation methods in drug analysis; Analysis of chiral drugs and metabolites; Detection in liquid chromatography; Spectroscopy and computer-aided techniques; Analysis of bulk drugs and dosage forms; Flow-injection analysis; Electrochemical methods in drug analysis; NMR in drug analysis; Dosage form design and analysis; and the ever-important theme of Evaluation and validation of analytical*

methods. All in all the Poster Discussion experiment was rated a great success by most delegates in terms of the high quality of international communication, since it enabled all authors to reach their audience in a relaxed, enjoyable and informative way, in the very best traditions of scientific discourse.

Also noteworthy at the York Symposium was the presentation of the Martin Medal to Professor Egil Jellum (Rikshospitalet, Oslo), a prestigious award conferred by the Chromatographic Society in recognition of outstanding international contributions. On this occasion, due to an unavoidable last-minute change in the programme, Professor Jellum had the unexpected privilege of presenting the Opening Plenary Lecture immediately after receiving his medal, a duty which he accomplished with great distinction in addressing the theme: *High-resolution GC-MS, HPLC and capillary electrophoresis for the diagnosis of disease.* The Chromatographic Society also presented the Silver Jubilee Medal to one of the up-coming younger scientists, on this occasion the recipient being Dr Henk Lingeman from the Free University of Amsterdam.

An excellent Exhibition of scientific equipment and materials enabled delegates to see state-of-the-art developments at first hand. A series of Workshops presented on Saturday morning by internationally recognized scientists followed the scientific programme of the Symposium and was very well received by delegates. The topical themes covered included chiral separations, SFC, capillary zone electrophoresis and sample preparation. Thanks are extended to these scientists for kindly giving their time and expertise to this enterprise.

Generous sponsorship by industry and by Pergamon Press enabled a first-rate social programme to be arranged — including guided tours round the historic City of York before the Symposium began, the customary Welcome Reception, and a superb Symposium Banquet held in the grounds of the celebrated Fountains Abbey near Ripon, where all delegates dined in a large marquee in Elizabethan

style, to the accompaniment of minstrels and dancers throughout the evening. The week's events closed with a memorable visit to the Jorvik Viking Museum in central York, where delegates travelled in an electrically-powered "time capsule" through the 10th century Viking street "Coppergate", recreated by archaeological scientists on the ancient site itself.

The Secretariat of the Chromatographic Society (Mrs Jennifer Challis and Mrs Gill Caminow) are to be congratulated for the excellent organizational arrangements at York, as are Dr David Goodall (University of York) and Dr Brian Clark (University of Bradford), with their postgraduate students, for the enormous amount of work put in to ensure the smooth running of the Symposium.

It is indeed a pleasure to bring together some 90 of the papers presented at York, in this special Symposium issue of the journal. In this respect, we wish to acknowledge the invaluable assistance of the Associate Editors in preparing the papers for publication, and to thank those many delegates who gave generously of their time to review the manuscripts at the Symposium itself. We trust that the format for international scientific interchange established in Barcelona and York will serve as a valuable foundation for continuing the series, when the Symposium moves to Boston in April 1991, to Baltimore in April 1993 and to other centres in Europe and North America in future years.

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