

## Editorial

Boston, Massachusetts served as the venue for the Third International Symposium on Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Analysis. This was held from 28 April to 1 May 1991 and followed the highly successful symposia held in Barcelona, Spain in 1987 (reported in *J. Pharm. Biomed. Anal.* **6** (6-8), 531-1068, 1988) and in York, UK in 1990 (reported in *J. Pharm. Biomed. Anal.* **8** (8-12), 613-1103, 1990). Boston is one of the most historic and cosmopolitan cities in North America; its universities are noted for their excellence and the environs have long been pioneers in science, medicine and technology. Thus, Boston was ideally suited to this transatlantic move, which was designed to encourage high-level exchanges among analytical scientists, from every corner of the world. The success of the meeting can be judged by the attendance of nearly 400 delegates and the presentation of 219 papers, of which 65 were published in this special issue of the journal.

The format for the Boston Symposium followed the model developed in Barcelona, by focusing on the Poster Presentations as the central scientific activity, supported by a single stream of Lecture Sessions. A novel feature of this symposium series is the Poster Discussion Sessions, introduced originally at the York meeting. The posters in Boston were divided into 13 themes and each author was invited to give a short five minute oral synopsis for discussion by a small group of delegates. This format enabled the authors to reach their targeted audience in a relaxed, enjoyable and effective manner, covering a wide variety of topics including: *Spectroscopy and spectroscopic methods of analysis; Therapeutic drug monitoring; Bioanalytical chemistry in clinical drug development; Analysis of bulk drug substances and formulations; Analysis of enantiomers; Analytical biotechnology; Bioanalytical chemistry in preclinical drug development; Clinical chemistry and analysis of drugs of abuse; Advanced separation systems; Analysis in preformulation and drug delivery studies; Sample preparation and chemical derivatizations; Receptor, enzyme, immuno- and bio-assays; and Electrochemistry.*

The scientific sessions were opened by Prof. Barry L. Karger (Northeastern University) and the closing lecture was given by Prof. Csaba Horváth (Yale University), who spoke on "Critical Issues in Analytical Biotechnology for the Pharmaceutical Industry" and "Preparative Separations in Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Analysis for the '90s", respectively. The single stream Lecture Sessions were of uniformly high quality featuring a combination of invited and contributed papers on a variety of topics, including: *Spectroscopy and detection; Therapeutic drug monitoring and pharmacokinetic applications* (two sessions); *Advanced separations; Diagnostics; Sample handling; and Future trends in pharmaceutical and biomedical analysis.*

The Chromatographic Society chose the Third International Symposium on Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Analysis as a venue for the presentation of two of its awards. The Martin Medal was presented to Prof. David E. Games for his outstanding international contributions to chromatographic science and the Chromatographic Society's Jubilee Medal was presented to one of these editors (CMR) for work on the application of liquid chromatography to the analysis of drugs in body fluids.

There was an excellent Exhibition of analytical equipment, materials and facilities at Boston, which enabled the delegates to observe state-of-the-art developments at first hand. The Scientific Sessions were preceded on the Sunday morning by a series of workshops on topical themes presented by internationally recognized experts in their respective fields. The workshop themes were: *Chiral separations; Capillary electrophoresis; Sample preparation; New detector technology in LC and SFC; and Microdialysis.*

The Organizing Committee chaired by Dr Steven Wong and the Symposium Manager, Ms Shirley E. Schlessinger, are to be congratulated on their excellent arrangements in Boston. Thanks are also due to Dr John Stobaugh, Dr Marty Kral, Dr Terry Jefferies and Ms Nancy Harmony, and the team of graduate students and

post-doctoral researchers, led by Joe Ault, from the Universities of Kansas and Bath, for the tremendous amount of work put into the smooth running of the Symposium.

It is a great pleasure to bring together the papers presented at PBA '91 in this special Symposium Issue of the Journal. We wish to acknowledge the invaluable assistance of the Associate Editors in preparing the papers for publication, and to thank the many scientists who gave generously of their time to review the manuscripts. We are pleased that the format

for this Symposium Series is now well established as an effective mechanism for scientific interchange bringing together scientists from different disciplines under the common umbrella of pharmaceutical and biomedical analysis. The Fourth International Symposium on Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Analysis will be held in Baltimore, 18–21 April 1993; plans are already under way for the 1994 meeting to be held in Stockholm, Sweden on 21–23 September and for the 1995 meeting to be held on the West Coast of the United States.

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