

Editorial

The beautiful city of Liège formed the venue of the Fourth International Symposium on Drug Analysis held from 5 to 8 May 1992. This meeting followed three earlier and highly successful Symposia held, respectively, in Brussels (twice) and Antwerp, as reported in the *Journal of Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Analysis* Vol. 1, pp. 381–572 (1983), Vol. 4, pp. 685–834 (1986) and Vol. 7, pp. 1291–1935 (1989). The progressive increase in the length of these special Symposium issues reflects the consolidation of interest in the area of Drug Analysis. This is indicated by the present special issue, which brings together more than 60 papers reflecting the breadth of the pharmaceutical sciences represented at the Liège Symposium. Together with a second special issue devoted to the Liège Proceedings to be published early in 1993, the total number of papers will be approximately 80.

On any analysis, whether by the number of papers presented (more than 250 oral and poster presentations) or the number of delegates attending (more than 500 from all over the world—a record for meetings in this field), the Liège Symposium was outstandingly successful in focusing on the wide range of analytical topics in drug analysis at the highest international level. The Société Belge des Sciences Pharmaceutiques, in partnership with the Institut de Pharmacie at the Université de l'Etat à Liège, succeeded in establishing an excellent platform for the discussion of a range of current topics in drug analysis and its applications. The convention facilities were flexible and very appropriate for their purpose.

Since the Antwerp Symposium in 1989, two fine scientists in the field of drug analysis, Professor Gaston Patriarche and Professor Göran Schill have passed away. The Liège Symposium Committee honoured the memory of these two outstanding personalities by holding two Special Sessions: at the G. J. Patriarche Memorial Session, Professor Gary Christian presented a short appreciation of Gaston Patriarche's *oeuvre* and personality, and then gave a masterly overview of developments in the field of electroanalysis. The presence of Mrs

Patriarche on this occasion, well known for her generous hospitality over the years, was particularly welcome. In the Göran Schill Memorial Session, Professor Tony Fell gave a short appreciation of the major contributions of Professor Göran Schill in separation science, and this was followed by a fine Plenary Lecture on novel approaches to chiral separations, presented by Professor Irving Wainer. Subsequent papers focused on developments in chiral analysis, a field very close to Göran Schill's heart.

As is often the case at international meetings, the best discussions were to be found in the Poster Sessions, where hundreds of scientists, younger and older, were involved in animated discussions, helped along by plentiful supplies of coffee, thoughtfully provided by the Organizers. A valuable new development at this Symposium focused on the parallel Poster Discussion Sessions. Here all authors of poster presentations were invited to make mini-presentations of their paper to groups of interested delegates in seven parallel sessions, under the chairmanship of experienced scientists drawn from among the delegates themselves. Judging by the response of delegates, this initiative was warmly welcomed and certainly led to many stimulating discussions during the 4-day meeting.

In keeping with earlier meetings in the series, the social programme at Liège was designed to reflect the fine cultural heritage of this lovely city—including a superb concert by the Koch String Quartet in the magnificent Cathédrale St-Paul, a City Reception in the Hôtel de Ville (Town Hall), and a visit to the Monet Exhibition. The week ended in style with a Symposium Dinner held in Saint-André, a beautifully converted former church. The informality of this marvellous occasion enabled all the Delegates to circulate among friends and gently relax after a busy programme.

The Symposium Organizers, under the Chairmanship of Professor Jacques Crommen, together with the Scientific Committee chaired by Professor Yvette Michotte, are to be congratulated for preparing a memorable Symposium, well worthy of the traditional high

standards of excellence for which this series is internationally acclaimed. It is our privilege, as Editors of this international journal, to collaborate with our colleagues in the Société Belge des Sciences Pharmaceutiques in publishing the papers presented at this successful Symposium in Liège. The decision of the SBSPP to hold a fifth

Symposium in this series in Leuven in early September 1995 will certainly be welcomed by all their many international friends and colleagues.

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