



Editorial

The *Fifth International Symposium on Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Analysis* was held from 21 to 24 September 1994 in the fine city of Stockholm, hosted by the Swedish Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences. This meeting followed highly successful symposia in this series held in Barcelona, Spain (1987), York, UK (1990), Boston, USA (1991) and Baltimore, USA (1993), as reported in this *Journal* (Volumes 5, 8, 9 and 11). The Swedish Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences has a high reputation for the quality of international meetings which it sponsors and this Symposium was certainly no exception. The continuing high degree of interest in the field of pharmaceutical and biomedical analysis was indicated by the fact that some 200 oral and poster papers were presented and that more than 350 delegates attended from over 20 different countries. The superb facilities of the Stockholm City Conference Centre conveniently located in downtown Stockholm contributed to the success of this Symposium, allowing a very flexible programme format to be developed, while permitting delegates an opportunity to explore the city at leisure.

Indeed our Swedish hosts arranged for an outstanding Social Programme, starting with a Welcome Reception in the fine library of the Swedish Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences HQ near the Conference Centre. At the Civic Reception in the Stockholm City Hall delegates were treated to a fine buffet in the gold-plated Banqueting Hall, famous throughout the world for the Nobel Prize Award ceremonies held there every year. At the Symposium Dinner in one of Stockholm's most elegant restaurants with a breathtaking view over the city, delegates were treated to an amusing speech by the doyen of all separation scientists, Professor Josef Huber (University of Vienna), who made an appeal to keep alive the spirit of scientific endeavour in developing the pharmaceutical sciences.

This special issue brings together 55 of the papers submitted at the Stockholm Symposium, reflecting the broad range of topics

and issues presented in the two parallel sessions of lectures and the 13 poster themes. The Poster Sessions held in the adjacent Norra Latin centre formed the primary focus for discussions and networking among delegates. The breadth of the meeting can be deduced from some of the key themes for the Poster Sessions themselves. *Spectroscopic Analysis; Chemometric Analysis; Analysis for Dissolution Testing; LC in Pharmaceutical Analysis; Pharmaceutical Analysis by CE; Biomedical LC; Biomedical GC and CE; and Mass Spectrometry in Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Analysis*. By contrast with the format of Poster Discussion Sessions developed earlier in this Symposium series, the Organisers coupled the Poster Sessions with two pairs of lively *Oral Poster Presentation Sessions*, where authors elected to make a short overview highlighting their poster theme in an attractive and often humorous way for the benefit of delegates attending, followed by a little discussion. This very Scandinavian formula for focussing on key issues in the Poster Sessions was an unqualified success.

The scientific programme commenced with Plenary Lectures on *Development Trends in Chiral Analysis* by Prof. Wolfgang Lindner (Graz, Austria) and on *Microcolumn LC and Capillary Electrophoresis of Biomolecules* by Prof. Miloš Novotny (Bloomington, IN). The high quality presentations continued throughout the meeting with plenary contributions by Prof. Olav Kvalheim (Bergen, Norway) on *Chemometric Strategies and their Use in Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Analysis*, Prof. Sture Forsén (Lund, Sweden) with a fascinating overview on *Biomolecular Structure and Dynamics — Experiments and Theory*, Prof. Jan van der Greef (Zeist, NL) with an update on *New Possibilities for Mass Spectrometry in Pharmaceutical and Biotechnological Research* and Prof. Sven Lindstedt (Göteborg, Sweden) with a clinician's perspective on *Chemical Methods for Diagnosing and Treating Inborn Errors of Metabolism*.

Keynote themes addressed during the Sym-

posium focussed on a wide range of topical issues, including *FTIR and Raman Spectroscopy* (Patrick Hendra), *Determination of Free Fractions of Drugs* (Terumichi Nakagawa), *Thermal Analysis for Characterisation of Drugs* (Danièle Giron), *Positron Emission Tomography for Visualisation of Biological Function* (Bengt Långström), *Genotype Analysis* (Magnus Ingelman-Sundberg), *Complementary Application of CE and LC* (Kevin Altria), *Peptides for Biorecognition* (Gjalt Welling), *Non-invasive Process Analysis using Diode-Array Spectroscopy* (James Callis), *Molecular Sensors in Biomedical Analysis* (Elizabeth Hall) and *Mass Spectrometry in the Development of a New Chemical Entity* (Karl-Erik Karlsson). The Symposium closed in plenary session with a speculative look at *Future Perspectives in Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Analysis* (Tony Fell) followed by a warm invitation from Professor John Stobaugh, Chair of *PBA '95*, to attend the next meeting in the series in April 1995 in St Louis, MO, USA.

The scientific programme was supported by a high quality Exhibition and followed on the Saturday by a series of popular Workshops presented by leading international specialists in their respective fields on: *Chemometrics* (Olav Kvalheim, Torbjörn Lundstedt, Jan van der Greef), *Sample Preparation in Bioanalysis* (Henk Lingeman, John Stobaugh), *Microcalorimetry* (Jaak Suurkuusk, Anthony Beezer, Lars-Erik Briggner, Aziz Bakri, Arne Schön), *Capillary Electrophoresis* (Shigeru Terabe, Stellan Hjertén, Miloš Novotny, Kevin Altria) and *LC Validation in Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Analysis* (Tony Fell and Chris Riley). On the following day there was also a full-day *Short Course on Chiral Separation* organised by Professor Jörgen Hermansson.

These courses were very well attended, not only by delegates to this Symposium, but also by those attending the subsequent meeting, also organised by the Swedish Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences, namely the *5th International Symposium on Chiral Discrimination*. Indeed this combination of the *ISPBA* series back-to-back with the newly established *ISCD* series of meetings, each held alternately in Europe and North America, presented a unique opportunity for pharmaceutical scientists to update their awareness of the latest developments in the field of pharmaceutical analysis, together with advances in the field of chiral discrimination spanning topics from

stereoselective synthesis through to chiral recognition mechanisms in capillary electrophoresis.

The Symposium Organising Committee was chaired by Professor Douglas Westerlund, who is to be congratulated on assembling an outstanding scientific programme. For the excellent organisational support, thanks are due to the professional organisers in the Swedish Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences (under the leadership of Professor Björn Lindeke), with special thanks to Dr Ingegerd Kalles and her superbly dedicated team, who did a magnificent job in ensuring that this Symposium was an outstanding intellectual and social success.

It is our pleasure once again to publish a substantial number of the papers presented at the Stockholm Symposium, and to thank our Assistant Editors and the many Referees world-wide who have worked so very hard to process the manuscripts in record time. We should also like to take this opportunity to express our valedictory thanks to Dr Helen McPherson, Dr David Claridge, our Desk Editor Ian Thompson and many other colleagues at Elsevier Science Ltd in Oxford (formerly Pergamon Press). Their contribution at all stages to high quality publication of Symposium papers in the *JPBA* over the past 13 years has contributed significantly to the success of this and other international Symposium series, both in Europe and North America. Their commitment to this objective is shared in equal measure by our new management team at Elsevier in Amsterdam, headed up by Dr Hans Laeven. These meetings include the *AAPS Symposia* and the well established series of *International Symposia on Drug Analysis* organised by the Société Belge des Sciences Pharmaceutiques, whose next meeting *ISDA '95* will be held in Leuven from 12 to 15 September 1995 under the chairmanship of Professor Jos Hoogmartens. Our thanks also go to our respective Journal Secretaries for their invaluable assistance in efficiently processing the manuscripts to publication: Mrs Mary Thornton in Bradford and Mrs Nancy Harmony in Kansas.

We look forward with keen anticipation to the *6th ISPBA* organised by Dr John Stobaugh in St Louis, USA, from 23 to 26 April 1995. This will be held in association with the *6th ISCD*, which follows it in the same venue. Looking a little further ahead, we also wel-

come the transfer of this series to South-East Asia for the first time, when the *7th ISPBA* is held in Osaka Japan under the joint chairmanship of Prof. Susumu Honda and Prof. Terumichi Nakagawa from 20 to 23 August, 1996.

Evidently the development of pharmaceutical and biomedical analysis has an important international dimension and it is our pleasure

and privilege to bring to readers of this *Journal* high quality, fully refereed reports of these events as a contribution to the process of international communication in the pharmaceutical and biomedical sciences.

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