

Editorial

The fine city of Leuven formed the venue of the *Fifth International Symposium on Drug Analysis* held from 12 to 15 September 1995. This meeting followed four earlier, very successful Symposia held, respectively, in Brussels (twice), Antwerp and Liège, as reported in the *Journal of Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Analysis* in 1983, 1986, 1989 and 1992.

The continuing strength of this series is indicated by the present special issue, which brings together more than 70 papers reflecting the breadth of the pharmaceutical sciences presented at the symposium. The number of delegates attending was more than 500 from all over the world making the Leuven Symposium outstandingly successful in its coverage of a wide range of analytical topics in drug analysis at the highest international level. The Société Belge des Sciences Pharmaceutiques, in partnership with the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences of the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, succeeded in establishing an excellent Symposium in drug analysis and its applications.

As usual, the best discussions were to be found in the Poster Sessions, where scientists, young and old, were involved in animated discussions. At the Poster Discussion Sessions, all authors of poster presentations were invited to make mini-presentations of their paper to groups of interested delegates in parallel sessions, under the chairmanship of experienced scientists drawn

from among the delegates themselves. This initiative was warmly welcomed and led to many stimulating discussions.

In keeping with earlier meetings in the series, the social programme at Leuven reflected the fine cultural heritage of this city, including a superb concert by the Antwerp Blokfluit Consort in the magnificent St. John the Baptist Church. A reception in the Falcon College was followed by a guided tour of Leuven complete with carillon concert. The week ended with a Symposium Dinner held in the Faculty Club where the delegates could gently relax after a busy programme.

The Symposium Organizers, under the chairmanship of Professor Jos Hoogmartens, together with the Scientific Committee, chaired by Professor Jacques Crommen, are to be congratulated for hosting a marvellous Symposium with the highest 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 Leuven. The decision of the SBSP to hold the sixth Symposium in this series in Brussels in May 1998 will certainly be welcomed by many international friends and colleagues.

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