

Editorial

The Seventh International Symposium on Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Analysis (PBA '96) was held from 20 to 23 August 1996 in the fine city of Osaka, hosted by the *Pharmaceutical Society of Japan*, and co-sponsored by 8 major Japanese organisations. The host societies organised a high quality international scientific event, following on from the other highly successful symposia in this series held previously in Barcelona, Spain (1987), York, UK (1990), Boston, USA (1991), Baltimore, USA (1993), Stockholm, Sweden (1994) and most recently St Louis, USA (1995). In keeping with the tradition established throughout this symposium series, the present issue of the *Journal of Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Analysis* brings together the referred papers presented at Osaka for the benefit of those members in the international community who were unable to attend this outstanding meeting.

As the first anglophone meeting held in Japan, specifically focusing on pharmaceutical and biomedical analysis, the 7th *ISPBA* attracted a substantial number of delegates from Japanese industry and academia, together with a broad cross-section of scientists from the international community, extending from North America through Europe to South-East Asia. A total of 56 lectures were presented in Plenary or Keynote format, together with more than 100 posters covering the range of topics and issues in the field. The Japanese Organising Committee chaired by Professor Susumu Honda and one of the Editors of this special issues (TN) were fortunate in being able to arrange for some of the invited speakers from Japan and elsewhere to present short Training Workshops on such topics as "Method Validation for Drug Analysis" and on "Capillary Electrophoresis", primarily focused on the needs of the Japanese delegates.

The venue for *PBA '96* was the Osaka Institute of Technology, whose President kindly made available their 60th Anniversary Memorial Hall, a purpose-built centre for conventions, symposia and similar events. The format of the meeting was essentially single-stream, with a few parallel sessions, and as always the best discussions were to be found in the Poster Sessions. All the papers were presented in English and this was very much appreciated by delegates from all countries (more than 20 were represented), including the many post-graduate students from Japan, for whom *PBA '96* may have been their first opportunity to present a paper in the international context.

The generous hospitality offered by the Organising Committee included the traditional Welcome Reception, followed later by a magnificent Banquet, sponsored by a number of Japanese Companies, including the important Japan Owners' Association, together with The Osaka Pharmaceutical Manufacturers' Association and The Pharmaceutical Manufacturers' Association of Tokyo. In addition, many of the international delegates took advantage of the unrivalled opportunity to visit the superb museums in Osaka and the temples of Kyoto, the ancient capital of Japan which features a marvellous collection of historically interesting houses and public buildings.

We are delighted as Editors of this International journal to publish the papers presented at *PBA '96*, in recognition of the strong development of the scientific base of pharmaceutical and biomedical analysis in Japan and South-East Asia.

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