

Foreword

The 8th *International Meeting on Recent Developments in Pharmaceutical Analysis (RDPA'99)* was held in Rome from June 29–July 3, 1999. The meeting was organized under the auspices of the Dipartimento Studi Farmaceutici dell'Università di Roma "La Sapienza" and the Divisione Chimica Farmaceutica della Società Chimica Italiana (Gruppo di Analisi Farmaceutica) and chaired by Professor Giovanna Quaglia. The slogan of this international meeting was to consider the progress in Pharmaceutical Analysis made in the second millennium and the future trends in the new millennium. This meant that no better place than Rome could be selected for this last RDPA meeting of the millennium. It can be said that Pharmaceutical Analysis was born in this millennium and that the technological developments fulfilled, and will fulfil, quite a number of goals in this field of research.

The main scientific themes of the meeting included: advances in separation science, spectroscopy, electroanalysis, radio and immuno assay and automated analytical instruments; analysis of drug materials, formulations, chiral drugs and products of biotechnology; pharmaceutical analysis for quality assurance in the regulatory environment; drug analysis in the optimization of dosage forms, in clinical and preclinical phases, in cosmetic products, in foods; therapeutic drug monitoring, clinical and forensic toxicology; chemometrics, assay validation; sample preparation and validation.

The Italian Association of Pharmaceutical Industry (Farindustria) made, for the first time, awards available for young researchers, presenting

original science concerning the topics of the RDPA meeting. These awards were given to Dr Ilaria D'Acquarica from Rome (*New synthetic strategies for the preparation of novel chiral stationary phases for HPLC containing natural pool selectors*) and Dr Ersilia De Lorenzi from Pavia (*Capillary electrophoresis investigation on transthyretin binding drugs for a potential new therapeutic approach in heredo-familial amyloidosis*), for their excellent presentations and research performed.

There certainly is no doubt about the choice of Rome. No other city on earth is capable of giving the visitor a more alive sense of the infinite, the universal, the majestic, and the famous. Observing the city under any aspect, one can see from the most distant past to the present, that she remains faithful to the primitive criterion of her founders and persuers; that is, to make the work of her talented statesmen, generals, architects, and builders durable in time. Today one still can admire the famous arches of ancient Rome, but few of us realize that before becoming famous, the Roman round arch was the unmistakable sign of Roman civilization. The architecture of the ancient city is dominated by the round arch: bridges, basilicas, famous arches, luxury residences, and public buildings all bear this architectural element.

Highlights of the meeting, in addition to the scientific programme, the concert in the church of S. Lorenzo de'Speziali which was possible because of the Nobile Collegio Chimico Farmaceutico, the charm of the Roman Forum by night, the beauty — and the heat — of the Roman Theatre of

Ostia Antica in bright sunshine and the art treasures of the Galleria Borghese.

In this Special Issue quite a number of the oral and poster presentations are gathered showing the fine quality of research performed in the area of Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Analysis. The next RDPA meeting will be organized in 2001 (June 5-8) in Lipari (Aeolian Islands, Sicily) and

will be co-chaired by Professors Paolo Ficarra and Sergio Pinzauti. This meeting will again be good opportunity to renew contacts, make new scientific friends and have stimulating discussions about science and other important things in life.

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