



## Preface

*The Tenth International Meeting on Recent Developments in Pharmaceutical Analysis (RDPA 2003)* was held in Cogne (Aosta Valley, Italy) from 28 June to 1 July 2003.

Lying at an altitude of 1534 m and surrounded by some of Europe's highest mountains, but still sunny, Cogne is immersed in an intact and slightly undulating meadows, a brilliant green setting that stretches up to the pine woods which cover the slide slopes. Looking west, you can see Mont Blanc framed in the opening of the valley; to the south, Valnontey leads to the incomparable glaciers of the Gran Paradiso National Park.

RDPA 2003 was organized by the pharmaceutical analysis group of the *Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry of the University of Pavia* under the auspices of the *Division of Pharmaceutical Chemistry of the Italian Chemical Society* and was co-chaired by Prof. G. Caccialanza and Prof. G. Massolini (Pavia University).

The Meeting was addressed to the recent developments and applications of analytical and bioanalytical techniques and continued the tradition of the RDPA series to offer a full overview of advanced trends in theory, applications and instrumentation in analytical disciplines.

Around 110 delegates from all over the world gathered to discuss recent advances and future trends in pharmaceutical and biomedical analysis; 11 invited plenary and keynote lectures, 12 oral communications and 58 posters were presented. Moreover, six PhD

students were able to present their 3-years research work.

The scientific sessions included topics like chromatomics; new trends in chiral separation; advances in separation science; advances in sensor analysis; hyphenated techniques with special emphasis on n-MS coupling; new trends in detection; advances in sample preparation and molecularly imprinted solid-phase extraction; advances in high throughput analysis; biopolymers analysis by microelectrophoretic techniques and DNA microarrays; MEKC applied to the analysis of plant extracts; chromatographic tools in peptide analysis. Some of these topics are discussed in the papers gathered in the present Special Issue of the *Journal of Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Analysis*.

The working sessions were held in the Conference Centre *Maison de la Grivola*. In addition to the scientific programme, a guided visit to the *Lillaz Falls*, a 3 km nature walk through the pine woods with typical local lunch, was highly appreciated by the participants and accompanying persons.

The *Eleventh International Meeting on Recent Developments in Pharmaceutical Analysis (RDPA 2005)* will be organized in Rimini (by the Adriatic sea) and chaired by Prof. Vanni Cavrini from the University of Bologna. The proceedings of this meeting will also be published in the *Journal of Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Analysis*.

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