



Preface

The Eleventh International Meeting on Recent Developments in Pharmaceutical Analysis (RDPA 2005) was held in Rimini (Italy) on September 25–28, 2005. Rimini is a nice city on the sea, with the oldest surviving Roman arch (*Augustus Arch*). It is located in the Emilia-Romagna region, on the so-called “Riviera” which extends from the Adriatic Sea to the green Apennine Mountains.

RDPA 2005, co-chaired by Prof. Vanni Cavrini and Prof. Carlo Bertucci, was organized by the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences of the University of Bologna, under the auspices of the Division of Pharmaceutical Chemistry of the Italian Chemical Society. This series of Symposia started in 1984 in Florence, as a National Meeting. Since 1997 the Symposium became international, and biannually organized.

About 170 delegates from all over the world attended the Rimini meeting. The intense and high-level scientific program of the Symposium was focused on recent advances and future trends in pharmaceutical and biomedical analysis, and it was organized into more than 160 scientific contributions. Among these, invited speakers gave four plenary lectures and 12 keynote lectures; furthermore, 19 oral communications and 132 poster contributions were presented.

The meeting started on Sunday, September 25, with the opening lecture by Bernard Testa, focused on the role of stereochemistry in the recognition processes. The scientific program of the symposium was then organized into four main sections: New Methodologies, Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Analysis, Natural Products, and Biorecognition.

The scientific contributions were extremely interesting and they were widespread on the different topics of the meeting, demonstrating that the role of pharmaceutical analysis is becoming essential in the drug discovery and development area. Some of the topics are discussed in the papers gathered in the present Special Issue of the *Journal of Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Analysis*.

The *Twelfth International Meeting on Recent Developments in Pharmaceutical Analysis (RDPA 2007)* will be held on the Island of Elba (Hotel Hermitage, Biodola bay, Tyrrhenian sea, Italy), on September 23–26, 2007 (<http://www.rdpa2007.com>), and chaired by Prof. Sergio Pinzauti, University of Florence. The proceedings of this meeting will also be published in the *Journal of Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Analysis*.

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The RDPA 2005 Organizers, from left: Vanni Cavrini, Carlo Bertucci, Roberto Gotti, Vincenza Andrisano.