



## Preface

The successful International Meeting series on Recent Developments in Pharmaceutical Analysis (RDPA) have succeeded from 1984 in creating a very friendly atmosphere with the participation of a lot of internationally recognized scientists. The aim of the Meeting series, under the auspices of the Italian Chemical Society, was to provide a forum for high-level scientific exchanges between analytically oriented scientists from every corner of the world.

The organizers, chaired by Prof. S. Pinzauti, arranged a nicely balanced scientific programme for the 260 participants in the Symposium. The 12 plenary sessions with 5 plenary and 13 keynote lectures, 23 other oral presentations and about 215 posters well reflected the hot areas in the broad, rapidly developing field of pharmaceutical and biomedical analysis. It was an excellent idea to invite a leading personality in drug analytical research and development, to present the introductory plenary lecture on Sunday, September 23. Prof. S. Görög (Gedeon Richter, Hungary) emphasized the analytical aspects related to bulk drug safety and quality.

Of the hot drug analysis topics, proteomics and metabolomics-related issues are nowadays first in line. Z. El Rassi (Oklahoma State University) gave a comprehensive overview of progress in capillary and microcolumn-based platforms for the simultaneous depletion and concentration of proteins. H. Lingeman (Free University of Amsterdam) and G. Massolini (University of Pavia) focused their lectures on novel analytical methodologies, i.e. on-line immunoaffinity preconcentration with on-line tryptic digest and reversed-phase LC–MS determination of digest peptides and post-column ligand-exchange mass spectrometry, and the development of integrated analytical LC–MS platforms for the analysis of proteins, respectively. Significant benefits of CE for metabolomic studies were discussed by C. Barbas (San Pablo-CEU University, Madrid).

Biospecific recognition was another main scientific theme presented by S. Daunert (Molecular recognition in biosensing, biomaterials and responsive drug delivery), A. Roda (Biospecific recognition-assisted soft impact mass spectrometry for biomarkers discovery) and C. Bertucci (Biorecognition studies by multimethodological approach). Several extremely interesting plenary/keynote lectures (held by G.J. de Jong, V. Scurig, J. Crommen, I.W. Wainer, S. Sturm, R. Gotti, W. Lindner, H.T. Karnes, and J.-L. Veuthey) 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. The different themes are represented in the present issue in which a number of the presented papers are brought together.

The Island of Elba (Fig. 1) and the Hotel Hermitage, located in the exclusive Biodola bay, provided a wonderful environment for



**Fig. 1.** Portoferraio (Island of Elba): view of Linguella (Medicean fortress) including the Medicean tower of Martello and the ruins of a Roman villa.

RDPA 2007. The next Meeting in this series will be held in Milan at the end of September 2009 under the chairmanship of Prof. R. Maffei Facino ([roberto.maffefacino@unimi.it](mailto:roberto.maffefacino@unimi.it)).

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Available online 16 July 2008