



## Preface

The thirteen Edition of the International Meeting on Recent Developments in Pharmaceutical Analysis (RDPA 2009) was held in Milan at the beginning of September 2009 under the auspices of the Italian Chemical Society, the Division of Medicinal Chemistry, Mass Spectrometry and Analytical Chemistry, with the sponsorship of several pharmaceutical and instrumental companies. The Symposium took place in the beautiful frame of the XV century “Cà Granda” historical building of the University of Milan (Fig. 1). Milan (Mediolanum) became a metropolis at the beginning of the 4<sup>th</sup> century A.C., and is now renowned as one of the capitals of innovation, science and art-based events, finance and business, opera, design and fashion, and will host the Universal Expo in 2015.

The Symposium, organized by the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences “Pietro Pratesi”, chaired by Prof. Roberto Maffei Facino and co-chaired by Prof. Marina Carini and Prof. Giancarlo Aldini, included five invited plenary lectures, ten key-notes, twenty three oral presentations and about 130 posters. More than 180 delegates from all over the world participated at the conference which, as expected, has continued its well established tradition in the development of outstanding and innovative analytical tools devoted to the fields of pharmaceutical and biomedical analysis, and is now focusing on new cutting edge topics of research involving the search and discovery of highly predictive biomarkers in proteomics, metabolomics and metabonomics.

All the oral presentations were of high scientific quality, and particularly impressive were those of the invited speakers Marco Scatigna (Sanofi-Aventis), Koji Uchida (Nagoya University, Japan), Aldo Roda (University of Bologna, Italy), Irving W. Wainer (National Institute of Health, USA) and Pier Giorgio Righetti (Politecnico di Milano). Particular focus was given to the advancement in the instrumental development and application (CE, HPLC- and UHPLC-MS, GC-MS and <sup>1</sup>H-NMR) and to capillary and micro-column based platforms for the simultaneous purification and concentration of proteins and polymers.

All the participants, coming from Academia, Industry and Government Institutions across Europe and throughout the world, enjoyed the friendly and pleasant atmosphere of the beautiful scenario of the courtyards of “Cà Granda”. This was the opportunity to exchange opinions and new views also in the field of other main



Fig. 1.

topics: analysis of natural products, biotechnology, chemometrics and optimization, therapeutic drug monitoring, and new trends in drug analysis.

Some of the different themes are reported in this topical Issue, in which the novelties of the symposium are summarized.

The next meeting of this successful series (launched in 1984) will be held in Pavia, Italy, at the beginning of September 2011, under the Chairmanship of Prof. Gabriele Caccialanza ([gabriele.caccialanza@unipv.it](mailto:gabriele.caccialanza@unipv.it)).

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