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Meeting Report

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MEETING REPORT

SIXTEENTH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON COLUMN LIQUID CHROMATOGRAPHY (HPLC'92) - June 14-19, 1992 at the Baltimore Convention Center.

This year's "gathering of the clan" featured several excellent informative sessions, some of which included presentations at the leading edge of chromatographic science and technology. The scientific program included **oral presentations** on Molecular Recognition; Packing Materials; Rapid Process Monitoring and Quality Control; Fundamentals; Clinical and Pharmaceutical Analysis; Optimization; Supercritical Fluid Chromatography; Chiral Separations; Detection; Micro-chromatography; Separations in Biotechnology; Sample Processing and Derivatization; Capillary Electrophoresis; Preparative Chromatography; Chromatography of Biopolymers; Two-Dimensional Separations; Environmental Applications; Chromatographic Behavior of Biopolymers; Mass Spectrometry in Chromatography and Electrophoresis; The Column in Separation Science.

Of particular interest to the present reviewer were the following papers:

"Molecular Chromatography: Separation by Seeing, Recognizing and Interacting at the Molecular Level" (Cs. Horvath), a very insightful, thought-provoking presentation.

"Liquid Chromatography of C₆₀, C₇₀ and Other Carbon Clusters" (K. Jinno et al.) which dealt with separation of the new and commercially important class of organic macromolecules, the Fullerenes.

"How to Get Reproducible HPCE Analyses Over the Whole pH Range 2-11 of Both Acidic and Basic Proteins - Perhaps the Most Urgent General Problem to Solve in Capillary Electrophoresis" (S. Hjerten, et al.).

"Two-Dimensional Separations by LC-CZE (J. Jorgenson, et al.).

Discussion Sessions were convened, at the end of each day, to encourage free-wheeling interaction among symposium participants. Individual sessions were dedicated to the topics covered by some of the oral presentations. Discussions were lively and informative, giving participants ample opportunity to meet and exchange ideas with others working in their own areas of interest. The discussions served as a fertile ground for new ideas and directions.

Exhibits were well attended by symposium participants. 64 exhibitors showed their latest innovations; others were conspicuous by their absence. Perhaps our present economic condition precluded their presence at expensive meetings. Perhaps cost per lead obtained at an exhibition has steadily skyrocketed to the point where the cost-effectiveness of this form of marketing activity has become prohibitive. We hope this is not the case.

Those who sponsor instrument exhibitions in the foreseeable future should consider more innovative approaches to exhibition planning, to encourage and enable more participation by a greater number of potential exhibitors, and, likewise, by those who will come to learn about new products and developments.

Posters included some very interesting and exciting recent developments in HPLC theory and applications. Unfortunately, most authors were not present at their posters during the times given in the program. Perhaps the greatest contributions of poster sessions are the one-on-one discussions with authors about preliminary, otherwise unpublished results and work in progress. This interaction was almost completely absent at HPLC'92. This is unfortunate, especially since, in the opinion of this reviewer, and of many who attended the posters, some of the best papers of HPLC'92 were there, yet the authors were not!

Future HPLC Symposia, which alternate between the United States and Europe, are scheduled:

- Seventeenth: 1993, Hamburg, Germany
- Eighteenth: 1994, Minneapolis, Minn., USA
- Nineteenth: 1995, Innsbruck, Austria
- Twentieth: 1996, San Francisco, Calif., USA
- Twenty-First: 1997, Birmingham, UK