

Charlottesville, USA, 10th-14th March, 2013

The scientific meeting MSB 2013 was held at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, on March 10th - 14th 2013. This meeting was aimed to include all major microscale bioseparation techniques including CE, nanoLC, microfluidics and Lab on a Chip devices. The program covered all aspects of capillary-scale separations, hyphenated detection methods, microfluidics, fundamental aspects of micro/ nanofluidics and applications related to systems biology, pharmaceutical sciences, biotechnology, clinical diagnostics, food and health, nanoparticles, industrial chemicals and advanced detection and instrumentation.

MSB 2013 introduced some changes as compared with previous meetings. The first modification was introduced in the abstract submission in which figures, methods and a description of novelty was required. The reviewing process of abstracts was a blind process in order to ensure a high quality of the science presented. Finally, the presentation format was adapted to create an extended discussion period with each contribution, reducing the presentation time and extending the time for questions strictly moderated by the session chair.

The symposium started the first day with four parallel workshops followed by the open ceremony and the founders lecture offered by Prof. Barry L. Karger entitled "Miniaturization in Separation Science: Past, Present and Future". The day ended with the opening reception in which some refreshments and hors d'oeuvres were offered.

The second day started with the Arnold O. Beckman Medal Award to Prof. Stellan Hjertén for its outstanding achievements in the field of electrodriven separations in which the awarded gave an interesting lecture about his experience as a separation scientist.

After the plenary lecture, a number of interesting oral presentations were split into two parallel sessions covering a diversity of topics. Different vendor seminars were also offered at lunch hours after which poster session took place.

Third day continued with several interesting oral presentations, vendor seminars and the poster session II. On Wednesday 13th, a Mini-Symposium entitled "The Role of Analytical Separations in Forensic Exploration" was offered in an additional parallel session. The MSB symposium continued with new speakers and poster session III. The day ended with the gala banquet in the alumni hall, in which exquisite food and good music were offered. In this gala, the best poster of each session was announced and these were for the contributions on different topics of John McLean (Vanderbilt University), Lewis Marshall (Stanford University) and Elena Domínguez Vega (Utrecht University).

Finally, the MSB 2013 was closed with the three oral presentations of the awarded posters on Thursday 14th followed by a closing ceremony and the MSB 2014 preview that will take place in Pécs (Hungary) on April 27th - May 1st 2014.

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