

44TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON HIGH PERFORMANCE LIQUID PHASE SEPARATIONS AND RELATED TECHNIQUES.

The High Performance Liquid Phase Separations and Related Techniques Symposium is held annually alternating between Europe and United States, and since 2008 some events have also taken place in Asia. This year, the 44th edition took place in San Francisco (California, USA) between 19th-24th June 2016. The event was organized by the Kennedy group from the Department of Chemistry of the University of Michigan and was chaired by Professor Robert T. Kennedy.

The conference started with an opening ceremony where we were surprised by a Chinese music and dragon spectacle. After that, two interesting plenary lectures were the starting point for the rest of the meeting: 'Technologies and strategies for driving the personalized medicine revolution: transforming healthcare through wellness' by Dr. Leroy Hood, and 'Advancing biology, chemistry and medicine through high-resolution chromatography mass spectrometry-based proteomics' by Dr. Steven Carr. Once the conference was inaugurated, the scientific program was developed on 49 key notes, 115 oral communications split into 15 parallel sessions, and 273 posters divided into 24 topic sessions. Besides, every day during lunch time we had the opportunity to attend 12 vendor technical workshops.

As a new feature in this edition, the educational diffusion of the knowledge about several chromatographic topics had a big importance and, therefore, 16 free tutorials were given with the objective of making this knowledge accessible to everybody and particularly to people with less experience in the tutorial topic. In addition, another novelty was the incorporation of 3 discussion panels formed by four leading experts, in which different topical issues were addressed and where special emphasis was paid to the participation of the audience. The three interesting topics addressed were: 'Future directions of micro- and nanofluidics', 'Columns of the future... and beyond' and 'Technical needs for biopharmaceuticals: HPLC-MS and beyond'.

The conference was completed with 9 short courses on leading topics such as HPLC and UHPLC troubleshooting and method development for small molecules, measuring glycosylation of proteins by HPLCMS, LC-MS2 strategies for identification and quantitation, the role of chromatography in the analysis and characterization of protein therapeutic drugs, chiral separations, Two-Dimensional Liquid Chromatography (principals, method development and applications) and CEMS as an easy to operate and information rich technology. It is also worth noting the important role that the social program had in this conference as we could all enjoy a fantastic dinner on a yacht, cruising along the San Francisco Bay.

Finally, the conference culminated with a closing session in which we were pleased with the following four plenary lectures: 'Separation science and analytical chemistry: past, present and future' by Dr. Barry L. Karger, 'Ultrasensitive protein analysis using capillary zone electrophoresis coupled with tandem mass spectrometry' by Dr. Norman Dovichi, 'Photophoresis: optical force chromatography separating molecules using mechanical forces of light' by Dr. Doo Soo Chung and 'Cancer lipidomics: analysis of dysregulated lipids using mass spectrometry' by Dr. Michal Holcapek. Besides, in this closing session the best poster award as well as the 2016 Csaba Horváth young scientist award for the best oral presentation were announced. Moreover, presentation of the forthcoming HPLC conferences was done by their corresponding Chairs: HPLC 2017 (Prague, Czech Republic) by Michal Holcapek and Frantisek Foret; HPLC 2017 (Jeju Island, South Korea) by Doo Soo Chung, and HPLC 2018 (Washington, DC, USA) by Norman Dovichi.

As conclusion, HPLC 2016 was a very interesting and worthy of attending meeting on chromatography where the main topical issues were dealt and where the interaction between the industry and the academic partners was favored.

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