

SEPARATION SCIENCE IN THE UK: STATE OF THE NATION

In recent weeks members of the Chromatographic Society and many others will have enjoyed the BMSS Annual 3-Day meeting at York, ISC2008 at Munster in Germany and the Desty Memorial event at the Royal Institute in London which was arranged as a special tribute to Professor John Knox. Also, by the time you receive this issue of ILM, the last Chrom.Soc. event of the year, 'Advances in Bioseparations' will be taking place at Ware. Accordingly it is now appropriate to turn our attention to 2009 and for The Chromatographic Society the year will begin with something a bit different. Moved from late November 2008 because of venue issues and proximity to the Ware meeting, 'Separation Science in the UK: State of the Nation' will involve a strong element of discussion as well as presentations on key features of what is going on in separation science in the UK.

The principal aim of The Chromatographic Society is to foster the development of separation science in the UK. Accordingly, in the preparations for this meeting the question which kept recurring was, 'Why hadn't we done this meeting before?'. Through the successful Triad meetings during our Golden Jubilee year, and indeed at many other one- or two- day symposia, we had showcased all that is very good in separation science in the UK pharmaceutical industry. However we have never, to my knowledge, formally reviewed the status of separation science across all the other sectors.

The seeds of the meeting were sown on a suggestion that we should discuss why separation science research in UK academia was in such a poor state.

This led to some further thoughts: (a) Who would be attracted to a meeting with a negative premise? (b) Should we really assume that things are in a poor state? (c) Shouldn't we widen the potential audience by also reviewing some other sectors?

The upshot of all these deliberations is that we now have a meeting in which we will showcase what is going on in separation science across all sectors other than in the pharmaceutical industry but including those feeding in to the pharmaceutical industry, we will critically appraise this activity and, only then, hold the first of what might prove to be several discussions on what might be the way forward.

Interestingly, the meeting has been moved from Liverpool to nearby Runcorn, once one of the homes of the mighty ICI, a veritable hotbed of separation science in the early days of HPLC. Speakers will include Peter Myers (University of Liverpool), John Lough (University of Sunderland) and Tony Taylor (Crawford Scientific). Highly advantageous rates for this meeting will be available to research students - interested parties should contact Amjad Khan (AstraZeneca) by e-mail through chromsoc@meetingmakers.co.uk or by calling the Society at Meeting Makers (tel: 01414341500).

The full listing of forthcoming Chromatographic Society events is shown below. Note that because of the date change of the State of the Nation event, there are slight movements in the dates of the other events in the first half of the year. Information is also included on the major international symposia in 2009 involving separation science so that you can plan your diary:

Chromatography Focus

DIARY OF FORTHCOMING CHROMATOGRAPHIC SOCIETY EVENTS

2008 13th November	Advances in BioSeparations	GlaxoSmithKline, Ware
2009 29th January	Separation Science in the UK: State of the Nation	The Heath, Runcorn, nr. Liverpool
April (date tbc)	Recent Developments in Instrumentation.	Liverpool
1st – 4th March	International Symposium on Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Analysis (PBA2009)	Agra, India
13th – 14th May	SPRING SYMPOSIUM & AGM Advances in LC-MS and Related	Stadium of Light, Sunderland
28th June – 2nd July	HPLC2008	Dresden, Germany
6th – 9th July	Reid International Bioanalytical Forum	University of Surrey, Guildford
12th – 15th July	21st International Symposium on Chirality (ISCD-21)	Breckenridge, Colorado, USA
September	Big Prep 5	Venue to be confirmed
September/October	Desty Memorial Symposium	Royal Institute, London
October	Separation science symposia running in parallel with major exhibition	National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham
November	Advances in Gas Chromatography	North West England
2010	Programme under development but will include a series of meetings on the impact of separation science on pharmaceutical R&D, a meeting on separation science and data and involvement in ISC2010 (almost certainly to be held in Spain).	

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