

CE in the Biotechnology & Pharmaceutical Industries—CE Pharm 2011

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The 13th Symposium on the Practical Applications for the Analysis of Proteins, Nucleotides and small Molecules (CE Pharm 2011) organized by CASS was held in Florida, on Amelia Island, and chaired by Cari Sanger-van de Griend (Kantisto BV) and Meg Ruesch (Pfizer, Inc.). About 100 participants from the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries, academia, regulatory institutions, as well as analytical companies joined the meeting to discuss the latest developments in the applications of electromigrative separation techniques. For many years, the symposium has been devoted to the practical concerns strengthening the use of capillary electrophoresis (CE) in the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries. It thus provides an impressive international and intercompany forum for the discussion of the advantages and limitations of the techniques. The particularity of the CE Pharm meeting is that all players of the analytical process are involved in the discussions: starting from instrument manufacturers and suppliers of chemicals and kits, covering the scientists and technicians in laboratories both of production and R&D, as well as in the quality control up to those involved in regulatory issues like FDA and Pharmacopoeia.

Scientific program and conference highlights The aim of bringing together all participants involved in the application of capillary electrophoresis for the pharmaceutical and biotech-

nological companies was strongly reflected in the conference program which included 24 lectures, 6 sessions, 37 posters, 4 workshops, and 2 short courses. The six sessions covered aspects of best practice, determination of purity/impurities, transitioning issues of switching from classical to electrophoretic techniques, the coupling of capillary electrophoresis to mass spectrometry, as well as regulatory issues. The last session was dedicated to the relatively young field of antibody drug conjugate analysis. The lectures were a well-defined mixture of new developments, optimization aspects, and sharing of knowledge and information both from users from the industry and academia.

The lectures were accompanied by several workshops where all attendees actively participated with long discussions. This year, the workshop topics were problem solving for capillary electrophoresis, CE-MS functions and developments, and a panel discussion on the presence of CE in monographs of the Pharmacopoeia. Novel developments in the markets were presented by exhibiting companies in lunch seminars.

This year's CE Pharm award was given to Oscar Salas-Solano for his active role in implementing electromigrative separation techniques and enhancing its acceptance both in industry and in regulation authorities, e.g., by implementing intercompany studies.

During breaks and evening events, and most importantly during the poster session, there was time for further discussions, exchange of knowledge, and networking. The very open atmosphere of the meeting and the willingness to share information among all participants were part of the success of CE Pharm 2011.

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Future and related conferences The next venue for the conference in 2012 will be Arizona. Further conferences on electromigrative separation techniques are the 27th International Symposium on MicroScale

Bioseparations and Analyses—MSB 2012 in Geneva and the 19th International Symposium on Electro- and Liquid Phase Separations Techniques—ITP 2012 in Baltimore.

