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Editorial

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Editorial

MIP2016: The 9th International Conference on Molecular Imprinting was set in Sweden for the first time on June 26–30, 2016. The meeting was held in and around the University of Lund, a very appropriate setting venerating the extraordinary advancements in molecular imprinting by several notable groups and individuals, particularly the pioneering efforts of Dr. Klaus Mosbach and members of his group.

MIP2016 conference received over 190 abstracts addressing different scientific topics related to molecular imprinting. The scientific program is composed of 5 plenary lectures, 16 invited lectures, 47 oral presentations, and 2 poster sessions. The rich and diverse scientific contents represented many exciting achievements and also pointed to new challenges. The list of oral and poster presentations and along with the presenters can be found at <http://mip2016.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/MIP2016-Abstract-book.pdf>. The first plenary lecture by Dr. Günter Wulff discussed important improvements of the efficiency of enzyme models prepared by molecular imprinting showing successful catalytic systems are possible and warrant continued development.

In the next plenary lecture, Dr. Kenneth J. Shea gave a different view toward development of molecular recognition particles that rival molecularly imprinted particles via his lecture “‘Plastic antibodies’: adaptable synthetic polymers as protein and peptide affinity ligands. An alternative to the lock and key paradigm.” Plenary lecture three by Michael J. Whitcombe was very provocative and queried the participants “Will there ever be a MIP in every home?”, with a very lively discussion on the topic that lasted until the end of the meeting and beyond. As a tradition for every Molecularly Imprinting Symposium, there is a plenary lecture on a related subject outside the field of molecular imprinting. For this meeting, the lecture was a very insightful one on “Protein recognition by designed agents,” by Thomas Schrader of the University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany.

This particular meeting had the participants in a competitive mood, beyond the academics of molecular imprinting. On a cool

afternoon on the second day, the participants of the meeting suited up (or suited down) in their bathing suits for a physically grueling dragon boat competition in Malmö. The rivalry was revelry, and this editor was proud of all his row-mates for the win. To further celebrate that evening, the conference gala dinner in Västra Hamnen after touring the Turning Torso. The gala dinner itself was not without competition, as several veterans prepared a “Trivial Pursuit” type quiz on various aspects of molecular imprinting events, people, statistics, and general knowledge of the evolution of the field. The final plenary lecture also followed tradition and was presented by Dr. Klaus Mosbach who asked “Quo vadis molecular imprinting?”; i.e., where is molecular imprinting going next? This is always a good thought to end the meeting.

The last important thing is to thank all the participants of MIP2016, the contributing authors, and the reviewers who have given tremendous effort to make this experience memorable. We also wish to express our gratitude to all the students who participated in the program and congratulations to the student poster winners. Especially appreciated are the editors of the *Journal of Molecular Recognition*, the Editor-in-Chief Marc H. V. van Regenmortel, and the Executive Commissioning Editor Peter Creaton for their staunch support of the field of molecular imprinting and excellent advice toward publication of this special issue. Thanks as well to Production Editor Johngerose J. Milo and Publishing Assistant Rebecca Ralf. And last, thanks to all molecular imprinting colleagues who keep this field exciting.

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