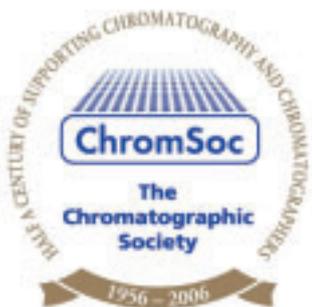


Chromatography Focus

THE 'TRIADS' - WHERE IT'S AT!

John Lough, The Hon. Treasurer, The Chromatographic Society

In the last Chromatographic Society column for ILM the virtues of the International Symposium on Chromatography (Copenhagen, August 21st – 25th, 2006; www.isc06.dk) with its strong links to the historical heritage of the Society were extolled. With this, and with the Society's Spring Symposium and AGM took place on May 24th at Milton Keynes, it is now time to re-focus on the main event of the Society's Golden Jubilee year, the Triad series of events taking place at AstraZeneca (Loughborough, October 11th), Pfizer (Sandwich, October 24th-25th) and GSK (November, 21st-22nd). Full details are given on www.chromsoc.com



“THE PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY IS BY FAR THE LARGEST MARKET FOR SEPARATION SCIENCE RELATED PRODUCTS”

Author Details:

John Lough,
The Hon. Treasurer,
The Chromatographic Society



Pfizer, Sandwich; venue for the October 24-25th Triad meeting

In the mid-50s when the Chromatographic Society was formed, the development of gas chromatography was driven to a large extent by academics and instrument manufacturers striving to meet the needs of the petroleum industry. Now, in our Golden Jubilee Year, the development of chromatography is even more inextricably linked with industry. The pharmaceutical industry is by far the largest market for separation science related products. As such 'manufacturers' liaise with key individuals in the pharmaceutical industry to assess their needs and come back later with new products and developments designed to satisfy these needs. Given that separation scientists in the pharmaceutical industry all have their own jobs to do (the first priority is to get drugs to the market!), the industry itself is not necessarily always, or even often, the primary source of innovation in separation science. However, the one thing it definitely is, is the test bed for all new innovations in the field. Any new innovation is very thoroughly evaluated to determine whether it can make a difference to the pharmaceutical business and from such studies it is sooner or later established whether a new separation science technology is a real winner, a niche technique or merely a passing flavour-of-the-month.

For this reason the best of, or at least the most important of, British chromatography is taking place in the UK pharmaceutical industry or with its associated collaborators and this is the reason why the three linked Triad events featuring separation science in the UK pharmaceutical industry is quite rightly the main focus (where it's at!) of the Golden Jubilee.

Each of the three meetings has its own theme (e.g. AstraZeneca "Extremes of Separations") but understandably different aspects of some of the important current areas of development in separation sciences appear more than once. One such area is the use of higher pressures to achieve more in terms of speed and resolution. This will be addressed at AstraZeneca by Steve Wren and, with respect to its application to metabonomics, Ian Wilson. At Pfizer it will likely feature to some degree in the presentation by Norman Smith (King's College, London) and again at AstraZeneca, its possible applications in development will be discussed by Roman Szucs (Pfizer). Other clearly identifiable "buzz" areas across the three programmes are autopurification in Discovery and the identification of biomarkers.

The AstraZeneca programme has a strong "home" line-up including speakers from Sweden. The "extremes" are generally in throughput whether it be by high pressure or otherwise. However, notable "extremes" come from the visiting speakers, Roger Smith opening up the day on the use of hot water at high temperature as a mobile phase and Craig White (Lilly) delivering the latest on SFC applications in modern drug discovery. The Pfizer meeting also has a strong emphasis on the Discovery phase.

There are contributions from AZ, GSK and Pfizer (USA) as well as local speakers and good use is made of academics such as Pat Sandra (Ghent), Dave Perrett (St. Bartholomews), Norman Smith (King's) and Alain Berthod (Lyon). There is an equally strong programme for the GSK meeting (Berger-SFC, Nicholson-biomarkers, Altria-CE) but undoubtedly one of the highlights will be Ian Mutton's continuing evaluation of new detectors designed with the aim of being universal or dealing well with non-UV absorbing compounds.

Also the GSK programme differs in that there is a strong emphasis on Development as well as Discovery (e.g. bioanalysis in DMPK, latest on LC validation in support of IND submissions).

All-in-all the Triad meetings are a feast of separation science to look forward to. On-line registration is now available at the Society's website (www.chromsoc.com).