

# Reports from Conferences

## Medicinal Chemistry

*by Ernő Pungor*

A Hungarian-German-Italian-Polish Joint Meeting on Medicinal Chemistry was held in Budapest, Hungary, 2-6 September 2001. The conference was organized by the Organic and Medicinal Chemistry Division of the Hungarian Chemical Society and the Medicinal Chemistry Divisions of the Chemical Societies of Germany, Italy, and Poland, with the contribution of the Medicinal Chemical and Pharmaceutical Technological Committee of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and the 100-year-old Gedeon Richter Ltd. Prof. Péter Mátyus was the chairman of the meeting, and Dr. János Wölfling was the secretary.

The meeting followed two previous joint meetings held in Taormina, Italy (1999) and Jelenia Góra, Poland (2000). This third meeting was organized by the Organic and Medicinal Chemistry Division of the Hungarian Chemical Society and the Medicinal Chemistry Divisions of the Chemical Societies of Germany, Italy and Poland, with the contribution of the Medicinal Chemistry and Pharmaceutical Technological Committee of Hungarian academy of Sciences and the Gedeon Richter Ltd, and was sponsored by IUPAC.

The medicinal chemistry is very complex. It contains many areas of chemistry, molecular biology, and material sciences as well as computer science. It plays a central role in drug design, discovery and development. This meeting focused in particular on certain challenging fields in current medicinal chemistry, such as CNS, cardiovascular and metabolic diseases, and new methods of drug research. More than 270 registered participants attended the conference (mainly from the four organizing countries, but scientists from more than 20 countries altogether) and 17 plenary lectures, 9 short lectures and 164 posters from academic and industrial areas were presented and this resulted in a high-level scientific program.

The Hungarian-German-Italian-Polish Joint Meeting on Medicinal Chemistry was a successful meeting about the co-operation of these countries. It strengthened the developing of new pharmaceutical products.

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<http://www.iupac.org/publications/pac/2001/7309/index.html>

## Analytical Sciences

*by David S. Moore*

The International Congress on Analytical Sciences 2001 was held 6-10 August at Waseda University in Tokyo, Japan. It was an extreme honor for me to be able to represent the IUPAC at this wonderfully-organized and executed congress. The congress is organized every ten years and is a huge undertaking—26 symposia, 5 plenary lectures, 281 invited talks, 250 other oral presentations and nearly 450 posters. It is truly international in scope and attendance—with nearly a thousand participants from 39 countries. If that isn't enough, this time the Congress was held jointly with Asianalysis VI—the Sixth Asian Conference on Analytical Sciences—and a Symposium on Traditional Chinese Medicine! Clearly the organizers of ICAS 2001—chaired by Tsuguo Sawada (Univ. of Tokyo), along with his Vice-Chairs: N. Nakamura (Sci. Univ. of Tokyo), Y. Umezawa (Univ. of Tokyo—member of the IUPAC Analytical Chemistry Division Committee), and K. Matsumoto (Waseda Univ.—member of the IUPAC Analytical Chemistry Division Committee) and the other 29 members of the Organizing Committee and 17 members of the International Advisory Board (chaired by H. Akaiwa, Gunma, Japan)—and the organizers of Asianalysis VI—chaired by T. Hobo (Tokyo Metropolitan Univ.) and the other 10 members of the Organizing Committee and 17 members of the International Advisory Board (chaired by B. Huang, Xiamen, China)—had to work together efficiently and smoothly. The excellent conferences they produced provide strong evidence that they more than succeeded in their task.

The symposia at ICAS 2001 covered all the fields of analytical chemistry that it seems possible to think of. From analytical atomic spectrometry and applied laser spectroscopy to nano-technology, separation science, and sensors of all kinds, the symposia and posters painted a broad canvas of the present state of the art in analytical science, and also suggested future directions and dreamed about future capabilities. What else could one want in such a conference? The only problem was selecting which of the many relevant and varied symposia to attend. I found myself wishing cloning was already a reality, or that I had accomplices with whom to share the task!

The International Advisory Board suggested to the ICAS organizers that the field of Analytical Science was developing rapidly enough to warrant thinking about