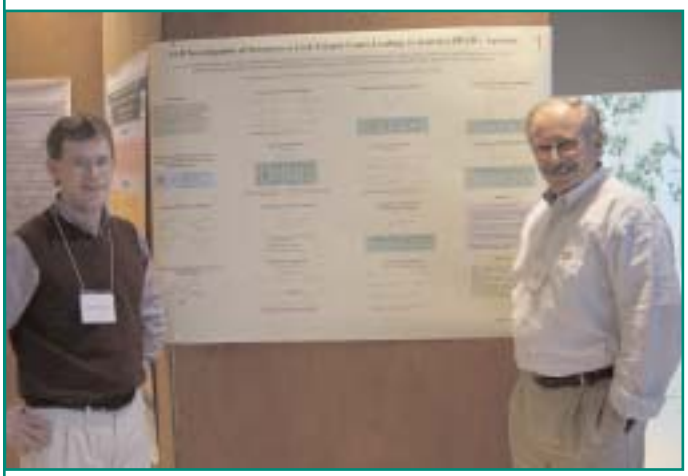
Heterocyclic Chemistry

by Lisa McElwee-White

The **4th Annual Florida Heterocyclic Conference** was held at the University of Florida in Gainesville, Florida, USA, from 10–12 March 2003. The conference was organized by Alan Katritzky, Kenan Professor of Chemistry at the University of Florida. Attendees included 168 industrial and academic chemists, along with 40 student participants.

The first day of the conference featured a short course on fundamentals of heterocyclic chemistry. Instructors for the short course were Katritzky and Dan Comins (North Carolina State University). Lectures on subsequent days included a discussion of heterocyclic chemistry in the pharmaceutical industry by Sverker von Unge (AstraZeneca), Mike Butters (AstraZeneca), and Jeff Marcoux (Merck). Catalytic reactions for the preparation of heterocycles were presented by Siegfried Blechert (Technische Universität Berlin), Robert Grubbs (Caltech), and Shu Kobayashi (University of Tokyo). Preparation of a library of bleomycin analogues was the topic of a lecture by Sidney Hecht (University of Virginia). Reductions and anionic chemistry formed a common thread for the talks by Subba Rao (Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore), Norbert De Kimpe (Ghent University), and Miguel Yus (Universidad de Alicante). Other lectures were presented by Jan Bake (Norwegian University of Truncheon) on nitro pyridines and Gordon Gribble (Dartmouth College) on indoles. During breaks, 42 posters from industry and academia were available for viewing.



Drs. Richard Johnston (Eli Lilly and Company) and Eric Scriven (Reilly Industries, Inc.) at the poster session.

Proceeds from the conference are being used to support ARKIVOC (Archive for Organic Chemistry), a free peer-reviewed online journal covering all aspects of organic chemistry. The journal is available at <www.arkat-usa.org>.

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Chromatography and Separations in Biosciences

by Vadim A. Davankov

The twenty-first of March 1903 is considered the birthday of chromatography. On that day, at a meeting of the Warsaw Society of Natural Scientists, Mikhail Semenovich Tswett presented a lecture entitled "On the Novel Category of Adsorption Phenomena and their Application to Biochemical Analysis." This was the first public disclosure of the dynamic adsorption analysis, which Tswett soon began to call chromatographic adsorption analysis. Chromatography, which changed science in a most revolutionary way, became the premier separation technique of the 20th century.

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of chromatography, a jubilee international symposium called **100 Years of Chromatography** was held 13–18 May 2003 in Moscow as part of the **3rd International Symposia on Separations in BioSciences**. The symposium was held in the New City Hall of Moscow.

Moscow Mayor Yuri Lushkov started the opening session that consisted of three main lectures. The first lecture, entitled "Mikhail Tswett: The Creator of Chromatography," was given by the chair of the symposium, V. A. Davankov, who briefly described the tragic fate of Mikhail Tswett in the turbulent periods of World War I, two Russian Revolutions, and the Civil War. Davanakov also gave an overview of Tswett's pioneering studies into adsorption phenomena and their evolution into a chromatographic separation technique. Two additional lectures, delivered by Professors Rudolf Kaiser and Heinz Engelhard, reviewed the difficult start of gas and liquid chromatography and the triumphant developments in the field in the last half century.