

## **News and Views**

A symposium on 'The Biotechnology of the Amylodextrin Oligosaccharides' was held during the autumn 1989 meeting of the American Chemical Society. The symposium was comprised of five half day sessions between 12–15 September 1989 and took place in Miami Beach, Florida. Thirty-one papers were divided into three general categories:

- a. biochemical aspects
- b. analytical aspects
- c. functional aspects

The introductory plenary paper was presented by Professor Jozsef Szejtli on 'Helical and Cyclic Structure in Starch Chemistry: Their Origin, Formation, and Industrial Potential'.

Biochemistry papers ranged from genetic engineering to enzyme protein structure to different and novel carbohydrase activities. The analytical contributions covered a gamut of new methodologies which are required in a rapidly expanding area of technology. Emphasis was placed on chromatography-based characterizations of the malto-oligosaccharides. Indeed, one entire half day session was a joint production with the symposium 'Advances in Carbohydrate Analysis: New Chromatographic Methods'. Papers on the functional aspects addressed novel approaches to preparation and utility.

Despite incredible difficulties with international communications, speakers attended from France, Germany, Japan, and the United Kingdom, as well as from all over the United States. It is expected that an ACS Symposium Series Book will be published in 1990 based on the work discussed during the symposium.

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