

ANNOUNCEMENT

INTERNATIONAL ISOTOPE SOCIETY NEWS

UNITED KINGDOM CHAPTER

The first meeting of the United Kingdom branch of the International Isotope Society was held at the University of Surrey, Guildford, Surrey, England on 5 July 1989. Twenty members representing twelve major companies and academic organisations were present and chaired by Professor J R Jones, Department of Chemistry, University of Surrey. Professor E A Evans, President of the IIS reviewed the history of the Society and the events leading up to its formation following the end of the Euratom Conferences in the 1960's and subsequently the two highly successful symposia on the synthesis and applications of isotopically labelled compounds held at Kansas City in 1982 and 1985. The IIS was incorporated in the State of New Jersey USA on 26 November 1986. He restated the overall aim of the Society which is to "PROMOTE THE USES OF ISOTOPICALLY LABELLED COMPOUNDS FOR STUDIES TO FURTHER IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE WORLDWIDE".

Professor Evans reviewed the activities of the IIS with several meetings of local Chapters having taken place in the USA and the first meeting of a newly formed Canadian Chapter is planned for August 1989. Following the highly successful International Symposium on the Synthesis and Applications of Isotopically Labelled Compounds held at Innsbruck, Austria in July 1988 (see *Journal of Labelled Compounds* Volume 25, October 1988, pages 1173-1175), the second such Symposium organised by the IIS is planned in Toronto, Canada for September 1991. The President reported that the Society membership is continuing to grow and that the Society was financially sound.

He indicated that this first meeting of the IIS in the UK had two objectives. Firstly to discuss the needs of the IIS members in the UK and how these can be met, and secondly to have a technical seminar on applications of a relatively new technology involving the use of tritium and [^{125}I]iodine compounds in scintillation proximity assays.

In the first session of the meeting, members discussed the future objectives and organisation of the UK Branch. Professor Jones reviewed the results of a questionnaire sent to UK members who attended the Innsbruck Symposium which indicated a desire amongst members to hold at least one meeting per year in the UK during the 3 year interim period between the International Symposia organised by the IIS. Six of the members present (Dr R J Duffin (Amersham International), Dr K Lawrie and Mr D Saunders (SKF), Dr D Lester (ICI), Dr J Morcombe (Beecham Pharmaceuticals) and Dr D R Sutherland (Glaxo) agreed to plan and to organise a symposium of the IIS in the UK for the Spring of 1990.

After lunch Professor Jones introduced Dr Robert Jessop (Amersham International) who gave an interesting and illustrative talk on Scintillation Proximity Assays (SPA), a new technology based on the use of fluomicrospheres and radiolabelled reagents. SPA is a novel technique applicable to radiobinding assays which eliminates the need for either a separation step or any addition of liquid scintillant. In a typical assay, antibody bound ligand is reacted with a scintillation proximity assay reagent which contains either a second antibody or protein A bound to fluomicrospheres. Any radiolabelled ligand that is bound to the primary

antibody is immobilized on the SPA fluomicrospheres which will produce light. Measurement in a beta scintillation counter enables the amount of radiolabelled ligand bound to be calculated. The availability of this range of generic SPA fluomicrospheres allows the simple conversion of existing heterogeneous assays systems into the convenient SPA format. Dr Jessop illustrated results of the technique in the radioimmunoassay of 6-keto-prostaglandin $F_{1\alpha}$ and thromboxane B_2 using the corresponding tritium labelled compounds. Dr N Jones (Pharmacia) demonstrated the LKB counting equipment for measurement using 96 well "T" plates which enables 9,000 samples to be counted per day. A small exhibition was mounted by Amersham International (Hilary Salt) providing members with more details of the SPA systems and other products of interest.

Professor Jones closed by thanking all those members who had participated in this first meeting of the IIS UK Chapter.

E. Anthony Evans
President IIS

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