

Editorial

The evolution of chemometrics as a discipline making a major impact on the field of pharmaceutical and biomedical analysis was recognized by the Swedish organizers of this Meeting, held in Stockholm in November 1990. The field of chemometrics began to take shape in the early 1970s, in recognition of the fact that chemical measurements based on advanced analytical instruments were beginning to produce vast amounts of data, for which there were no adequate methods to extract the valuable intrinsic information encoded in the data sets. Thus the early pioneers in the field, Professor Svante Wold and Professor Bruce Kowalski, succeeded in establishing chemometrics as an area which combines intelligent modelling of data, experimental design and data analysis, to provide a rational strategy for the acquisition and processing of data in research and development.

In this Symposium on "Chemometrics in Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Analysis" a wide range of topics was compressed into two days, comprising four sessions of invited lectures covering the key areas of: Principles and Experimental Design; Chromatography; Spectrometry; Clinical Chemistry; Applications; Validation of Analytical Methods; and Future Trends. These topics were complemented by a small number of high quality posters drawn from industry, together with a concluding Discussion Session.

This special issue presents the majority of the invited papers discussed in Stockholm and illustrates the breadth of developments in chemometrics across the field of pharmaceutical and biomedical analysis. The Swedish Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences is to be congratulated on organizing this timely review of advances in this rapidly developing new field of research in the analytical sciences.

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