

**25th LATIN-AMERICAN SYMPOSIUM ON BIOTECHNOLOGY, BIOMEDICAL,
BIOPHARMACEUTICAL, AND INDUSTRIAL APPLICATIONS OF CAPILLARY ELECTROPHORESIS
AND MICROCHIP TECHNOLOGY (LACE)**

The LACE conference was organized by Drs Alberto Escarpa and Agustín González Crevillen at the unique World Heritage Place of Alcalá University (Spain) and celebrated at the beautiful Colegio San Idelfonso, from September 29th until 2nd October 2019. This year, the LACE conference turned 25 years since its foundation by Professor Norberto A. Guzmán.

The conference was divided into the pre-symposium courses and the symposium. On Sunday morning, we started with the pre-symposium courses. These were very stimulating talks, the first course given by Dr Robert Weinberger, currently President of CE Technologies, Inc. (USA), was an introduction to Capillary Electrophoresis. The second presentation by Professor Norberto A. Guzmán from Princeton Biochemicals, Inc. (USA), spoke about clinical Capillary Electrophoresis. The third presentation by Professor Philip Britz-McKibbin from McMaster University (Canada) was focused on 'New advances in CE-MS for metabolomics and biomarker discovery: expanding throughput and metabolome coverage with quality control'. Finally, the last presentation of the pre-symposium course by Dr Flavio Della Pelle (Italy) was entitled 'Microchip-electrophoresis coupled to nanomaterial-based electrochemical detection in food analysis'.

On Sunday afternoon, after the warming welcoming words by the organizers, the opening session of the symposium included two plenary lectures. The first one by Professor Norberto A. Guzmán who talked about 'An insider's view of the evolution of clinical science through 25 years of annual LACE Symposiums' and the second one by Professor Robert Kennedy, Associate Editor of Analytical Chemistry journal, who talked about high throughput protein assays using microchip electrophoresis. After that, attendees could enjoy a welcome cocktail in one of the unique patios.

On Monday, the session started at 9:00 and lasted till 19 h in the afternoon. In total, 3 keynotes and 11 oral presentations took place mainly regarding capillary electrophoresis coupled to mass spectrometry and microfluidics. In the morning, a coffee break and lunch were offered by the organization. In the afternoon, the coffee break was courtesy of Sciex who gave a talk about the advances in capillary electrophoresis for biopharmaceutical analysis. After that coffee seminar, it was the turn for the poster session. First, presentation of flash communications allowed several researchers to explain their results in a short time, and then, everybody was invited to see the exposed posters. When the session was finished, we enjoyed a tour around the old University and the chapel where we could learn more about the history of this University.

On Tuesday, a total of 16 presentations related to the application of capillary electrophoresis in different fields, microchip electrophoresis, enantiomeric separation, etc were presented in three plenary sessions. All the presentations were defended by PhD and post-doctoral students, full professors, or delegates from companies. Between sessions, the congress organization offered breakfast and lunch. In the afternoon, after the plenary sessions, a second flash communication session took place. In the evening, all the participants were invited to a classic music concert performed by two excellent musicians. The concert was followed by the gala dinner in the 'Hostería del Estudiante', a restaurant specialized in Castilian dishes in which all the assistants were able to enjoy good food and pleasant conversations.

On Wednesday, the last session of the congress started with the keynote entitled 'Ideal-filter by capillary electrophoresis' by Professor Sergey Krylov and it was followed by excellent presentations about the last advances of capillary electrophoresis in different fields which were presented by the professors Chapman, García Campaña, Benavente, Guttman and Cifuentes. The LACE 2019 concluded with the closing session where Professor El-Rassi, on the occasion of his 25 years as Editor-in-Chief of the Electrophoresis journal, held a plenary lecture entitled 'Nanoparticle-based separation media for electro- and liquid phase-separation techniques'. Finally, the closing ceremony took place at Historic Paraninfo and was chaired by Professor Francisco Javier de la Mata (VicePresident for Research and Transfer of the University of Alcalá). During this ceremony the Poster Awards were announced and all participants were invited to attend the 26th edition of LACE in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil).

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