

PEAKS of Interest

CCDG presents Annual Merit Award to Nobel laureate John Fenn

The Chicago Chromatography Discussion Group (CCDG), the oldest chromatography discussion group in the U.S., held its annual meeting in Naperville, Illinois on May 19. Founded in 1961, the group awards its Merit Award at its annual meeting each year. The main criterion for the award is for individuals who make outstanding contributions to the field of separation sciences. This year's award went to Professor John B. Fenn of the Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia. Fenn, professor emeritus of Yale University, was the 2002 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry. The Award was based upon Fenn's contributions to the technique of LC-MS through his decades of contribution to molecular beam research. Fenn's development of the electrospray source for MS was a pivotal contribution that allowed the LC-MS technique to grow and prosper, especially for the application of the technique to large biomolecules. At the annual meeting, Fenn presented an interesting lecture on the work that led up to his Nobel Prize giving much credit to his graduate students and post-docs that came through his Yale Labs. Other speakers during the day talked about other developments and applications of LC-MS including new columns suited to high-throughput LC-MS.

PREP 2004 highlights what's hot in preparative chromatography

This year's PREP 2004 Conference took place 23–26 May on the sweltering banks of the Chesapeake Bay in the city of Baltimore's Inner Harbor. Baltimore might be considered a northern city to its many visitors, but as anyone who attended the event this year can attest, it certainly can feel like the tropics when an unexpected May heatwave hits.

Of course, within the air-conditioned confines of the Marriott Waterfront Hotel, the air was comfortable, and for those still struggling to cool down, complimentary beverages were served throughout the facility — one of the benefits of a more intimate conference such as this. However, intimate or not, with more than 400 visitors, PREP 2004, the 17th International Symposium, Exhibit and Workshops on Preparative/Process Chromatography, certainly had its share of foot traffic bustling by the 36 booths set up in the Harborside Ballroom. Add to this the wide variety of workshops, symposia, and poster presentations, and you had a busy four days. Descriptions of some of the more notable exhibits follows.

Pall Life Sciences' (East Hills, New York) dedication to membrane technology was one of the conference's many highlights,

Chromatography Market Profile

Market Profile: Dissolution Testing and HPLC

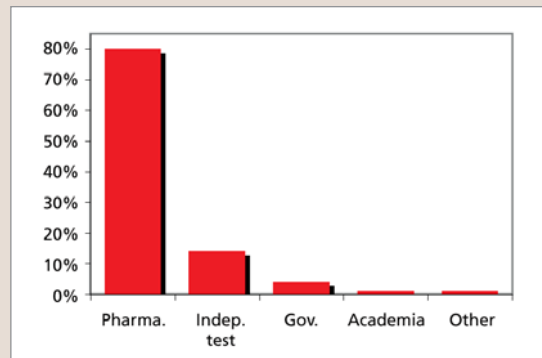
Dissolution testing is a mandatory test for the evaluation of solid dosage forms, such as capsules, tablets, ointments and creams. In its simplest form, it measures the rate of dissolution or solubility of a drug tablet. Perhaps one of the fastest growing areas in dissolution testing instrumentation is the direct coupling with HPLC.

These "on-line" dissolution-testing systems are most often used in bioavailability studies and ADME/toxicity screening. This application remains a critical part of pharmaceutical and biotechnology product development. On-line systems directly transfer samples from dissolution baths to the HPLC.

The pharmaceutical industry accounted for an overwhelming majority of dissolution testing sales in 2003. Quality control, method development, and drug discovery research functions account for a significant portion of the market. Dissolution testing is expected to see dynamic growth over the next five years, especially as more emphasis is put on bringing drugs to market faster.

Incorporating rudimentary steps into identification and validation analyses, like dissolution testing, has fostered multiple alliances and cooperative agreements among leading dissolution testing and HPLC vendors. In effect, vendors enhanced their marketability and add value to their existing product portfolios. This trend is expected to continue as the demand for complete laboratory solutions and application-specific platforms becomes increasingly important to end-users.

The foregoing data was extracted from a forthcoming Strategic Directions International, Inc. market analysis and perspectives report, *The SDI Global Assessment Report 8th Edition: The Laboratory Life Science and Analytical Instrumentation Industry 2004-2008*. For more information, contact John W. Probst, Senior Business Analyst, Strategic Directions International, Inc., 6242 Westchester Parkway, Suite 100, Los Angeles, CA 90045, tel. (310) 641-4982, fax: (310) 641-8851, e-mail jprobst@strategic-directions.com.



2003 North American Dissolution testing Demand by Industry.

with the company's exhibit touting the exciting possibilities in this alternative to traditional column technology. The complementary nature of membrane adsorbers was addressed at length in an informative presentation and workshop as well.

Varian, Inc.'s (Walnut Creek, California) exhibit and presentation on its ThermoSep HPLC columns was another highlight, as the potential for achieving higher purity levels in oligonucleotide analysis was explored, along with the attendant benefits for laboratory performance.

In the category of purification, both Dionex Corporation (Sunnyvale, California) and Waters Corporation (Milford, Massachusetts) presented new systems. With the APS series autopurification system, Dionex seeks to redefine throughput and workflow automation, while Waters' MS-based purification system is designed for analytical to preparative-scale chromatography.

Of course, there is no way to do justice to any conference in the limited space here, and indeed, the list of exhibitors and products alone took up a solid eight pages in the PREP 2004 program book. Even in such an intimate setting, it was difficult to view all of the products and exhibits that were offered. Readers interested in a comprehensive list of the many worthwhile exhibits, workshops, and presentations that were available at this conference can visit www.prepsymposium.org.

— David Walsh

Erratum

In the April "MS—The Practical Art" (*LCGC* 22[4], 344–352), an incorrect reference was cited in the caption for Figure 6. It should have read "(Reprinted with permission from reference 11)."