

Analytical Research Forum 09 – Main highlights

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I presented a poster titled ‘Separation and Quantification of Cellulases by Capillary Zone Electrophoresis’ in the Analytical Research Forum which was held in Pfizer, Sandwich, Kent between 13th-15th July 09.

More than 100 delegates from different countries including the UK, the Republic of Ireland, India, Japan, Iran and Taiwan participated in the meeting. The meeting started with opening remarks from the Vice President of RSC Analytical Division (Dr. Melissa Hanna-Brown). This was followed by a number of oral presentations by PhD students and invited keynote speakers. The oral presentations covered a broad range of analytical techniques such as chromatography, electrophoresis, mass spectrometry, spectroscopy, voltammetry and their application in forensics, disease diagnosis, sports and environmental monitoring. Dr. Geraint H. Morgan’s presentation ‘Down to Earth’ which focused on translating the ideas of ‘Ptolemy: An Evolved Gas Analyzer’ for space-flight technology to medical diagnostics (such as earlier detection of Tuberculosis in Africa) was of particular to interest me. This is because I have always been fascinated by both the scientific search for extraterrestrial life and the application of science towards the goals of saving and improving human life.

The interactive poster sessions aided in efficient exchange of ideas. I gained valuable insights into my research project by tailoring my poster presentation to the needs of fellow students, industrial scientists (from Pfizer, Astra Zeneca, Unilever and NPL) and poster judging panel. In addition, an informal environment during the poster sessions encouraged me to be involved in interesting scientific debates with fellow conference delegates and also in making useful contacts.

A speech by Dr. David Perrett on the role of analytical scientists in making inventions using the knowledge gained by existing discoveries and using those inventions to improve the quality of human life was particularly encouraging.

Besides the excellent quality of research presented in the meeting, I was also fascinated by the tricks of Colin Hoult, Magician at the dinner table!

To summarize, ARF offered an invaluable opportunity to present my work to and network with a diverse number of academic and industrial analytical researchers. Discussing my research ideas with a wider group of audiences in the meeting has greatly enhanced my intellectual confidence.