

Royal Society of Chemistry Biotechnology Group Committee

Chairman's Report 2009

The Biotechnology Group has achieved a recession-beating year of success in promoting conferences/courses of interest to both the industrial and academic communities in chemistry and biotechnology.

The first conference of the year was a one-day event on *Advances in Biocatalysis* at UCL in London, held on 21st April 2009. This was the second time that this event was held, the first being in 2004. With the recession in mind, the marketing, registration and payment for this event was entirely web based for the first time, and a healthy turnout of 69 delegates showed that the change was indeed worth the effort.

The largest event of the year was a four-day conference on *Functional Molecules from Natural Sources* at Magdalen College, Oxford, held on 5-8 July 2009. This event was organised by Bob Thomas, Neville Nicholson, Stephen Wrigley, Martin Hayes, Martine Verhoeyen, and Colin Bedford. With 77 delegates in total, the conference was a resounding success, in particular for Bob Thomas for whom this was his final contribution to the Biotechnology Group.

Another success came from a one-day symposium on *Chemical Tools in Systems Biology*, at GSK in Stevenage, held on 1st October 2009. Organised by Klaus Rumpel, Neville Nicholson and Klaus Schneider, the marketing and registration for this event was also largely web based, and with 29 delegates was also able to make a small surplus.

2010 promises to continue this success with a host of exciting meetings planned. A repeat of a previously successful two-day course on carbohydrate biotechnology, this time entitled *Introduction to Glycotechnology* will be held in April 2010 at the University of Nottingham in partnership with the BioUpdate Foundation. A one-day symposium on *Chemical & Biological therapeutic Approaches to Neurological Disorders* to be held in London on the 19th April 2010 is also now open for registration. The group is also co-organising two other events. One in September on *Theranostics* as a satellite meeting to *Biosensors*, and the second in October on *Biocatalysis and Biotransformation* as a joint meeting with the Society for the Chemical Industries (SCI).

The committee received sad news in January 2009 of the passing of Ewan Chrystal. As a former Biotechnology Group Committee member, Ewan's substantial contributions were too many to name here, but it was noted that his thoroughness in preparing Draft Conference Budgets will be sadly missed by all.

I would like to give special thanks to the Group's Hon Treasurer, Stephen Wrigley for his careful scrutiny of the finances, to the Group's Hon Secretary, Colin Bedford for tirelessly ensuring the group operates with unquestionable smoothness, and also to all the other members of the 2009 Biotechnology Group Committee (named below) for their hard work during the year. Finally, following his resignation in 2009, I would like to thank Bob Thomas for his long-standing membership of the Committee and his many contributions to conferences and other events.

Paul Dalby

Biotechnology Group Committee 2009

Dr. Colin Bedford (Secretary)
Dr. Stephen Wrigley (Treasurer)
Professor Tony Cass
Prof Stephen Harding
Dr. Brendan Fish
Dr. Irene Francois
Dr. Martin Hayes
Mr. Neville Nicholson
Dr. Klaus Rumpel
Professor Robert Thomas
Dr. Martine Verhoeyen