

RSC Biotechnology Group and RSC Chemical Biology Interface Forum (CBiF)

Conference Report

Functional Molecules from Natural Sources, 6-8 July 2009, Magdalen College, Oxford

This two and a half day International Meeting, held at Magdalen College, Oxford featured twenty one speakers, with good representation from Academe, Government Agencies and Industry - among which were three Fellows of the Royal Society. The names of the Speakers – including four from the USA, one from Singapore, one from Kenya and one from Germany - and the Titles and Abstracts of their Lectures are given in the enclosed Conference Booklet. Also listed there are the Titles and Abstracts of the 25 Posters which were an important component of the Conference, since most of the Presenters were students – both from the UK and overseas. Also included are the names/affiliations of the delegates.

A comprehensive four-page Conference Synopsis by Dr Steve Wrigley was produced for publication in *Journal of Antibiotics*¹ - in return for a full-page advertisement for the Conference which appeared in its April and May 2009 editions.

The total attendance was 77, with delegates from twenty countries. The delegates clearly enjoyed the Conference, since lively Question and Answer Sessions followed most of the Lectures, the Posters prompted good attendances and animated discussion, and the informal feed-back to the Conference Committee via a Questionnaire was very good. A conference banquet was held at Magdalen College following which a stimulating after dinner address was provided by Professor Sir Jack Baldwin FRS, who is a distinguished Emeritus Fellow of Magdalen College.

We thank Magdalen College for their hospitality, *Unilever R&D, Advanced Chemistry Developments Ltd, Bracknell* and the *Chemistry Biology Interface Forum* for generous Sponsorship, and the *RSC's Education Section* for the provision of Student Bursaries. We should also wish to acknowledge the important contribution to the smooth-running of the administration of the Conference by Elaine Wellingham.

The Conference Committee

Professor Bob Thomas (Chair) University of Sussex, UK

Dr Colin Bedford Chemistry Department, UCL, UK

Dr Martin Hayes AstroZeneca, Sweden

Neville Nicholson Consultant, Drug Discovery, Haverhill, UK

Dr Martine Verhoeyen Unilever Life Sciences, Bedford, UK.

Dr Steve Wrigley Hypha Discovery Ltd, UK

1 October 2009

ADDENDUM (December 2010) – A 200-page Book of the Proceedings of the Conference² was published in Nov 2010

1. S K Wrigley, *J. Antibiotics*, **62**, 649 (2009)
2. *Functional Molecules from Natural Sources*, Eds. Stephen K Wrigley, Robert Thomas, Colin T Bedford and Neville Nicholson, RSC Publishing, Cambridge, 2010