

Aston Medal 1999

# Dai Games



Professor Dai Games was awarded the Aston Medal by the BMSS in 1999. He has long held an important position within the British Mass Spectrometry community and has had many major honours awarded to him during his long and distinguished career.

He graduated from King's College, University of London, where he also obtained his PhD. After postdoctoral work at McMaster University, Hamilton, he moved to University of Wales Cardiff where he progressed to a personal chair. In 1989 he moved to Swansea as Head of the Mass Spectrometry Research Unit at University of Wales, Swansea. Although best known as a mass spectrometrists and separation scientist who was the first person to bring LC/MS to Europe, he has made considerable contributions in organic chemistry research and served as Head of the Chemistry Department at Swansea. He is a past Chairman of the BMSS, served on the SERC Chemistry Committee as Chairman of the Instrumentation Panel and also on NERC, MRC and AFRC panels. In 1987, he was awarded the Royal Society of Chemistry medal for Analytical Separations and in 1991, was awarded the Martin Medal by the Chromatographic Society. In 1993 he received the Gold Medal of the Society of Analytical Chemistry; the International Mass Spectrometry Society awarded him the J.J.Thomson Medal in 1997; in 1999 he received the A.J.Evans Medal from Cardiff University. In addition to his many research publications, he is a former Joint Editor-in-Chief of Biomedical and Environmental Mass Spectrometry.

Amongst his areas of expertise are the development and application of novel mass spectrometric, chromatographic and separation techniques; pioneering LC/MS, the coupling of supercritical fluid chromatography (SFC) to MS, capillary electrochromatography (CEC) coupled to nanospray, and high speed countercurrent chromatography (HSCCC) have also been developed in Professor Games' laboratory as novel ways of introducing a wide range of samples to the mass spectrometer. He also holds the position of Emeritus Professor at the University of Wales, Swansea.

To quote a couple of paragraphs from a speech given by Professor John Monaghan when Dai was awarded the RSC Analytical Division 21<sup>st</sup> Gold Medal in 1993.

*"In my view there's so much more to Dai Games than this brief recital indicates. We expect academics to do research, to teach and we hope they will work for the RSC – Dai does all that. What he does in addition is to act as an example that nice guys can come FIRST. Dai would never claim to be special, but we his friends and collaborators, know that he is special. In everything he does, the fact that he cares for people – for individuals – shines through. He sees mass spectrometrists, analytical chemists, scientists as part of a community – where every individual (regardless of their status) is of value."*

Many students that have passed through Dai's Group at Cardiff, and later Swansea, have gone on to very successful careers in mass spectrometry. In fact at one time it seemed that almost every mass spectrometrists in the country was an ex student of Dai's, or at least had some affiliation with him. As well as teaching within the University environment Dai has been involved in the education of many generations of LC/MS users. For example LC/MS training courses with Jack Henion at Cornell University in the USA and at Montreux in Switzerland.

Dai was also involved in the setting up the incredibly successful BMSS LC-MS meetings and teaching the initial BMSS LC-MS courses with Andries Bruins and others at, initially the School of Pharmacy, and then later at Robinson College Cambridge. He retired from full time research administration in 2003 and to mark this moment a symposium was held in his honour at University College Swansea .



taken from John Langley's & Christine Ecker's articles in  
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