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This year, about two thousand people from all over the world attended the mass spec conference which was held at Prague Congress Centre. It was the first time for me to attend an international conference which has been known having a very good and long traditional standing. The conference organization in no doubt delivered the top quantity and quality of scientific materials. During the five intensive days, a considerable amount of knowledge in almost every aspect of mass spectrometry was well delivered by very well-organized oral and poster sessions.

Each day began with a plenary lecture, each covered every important and current aspect of MS including ESI, FTMS, TOF analyzers, Ion traps and Quadrupoles, Nanotechnology, Drug Discovery and Development, Metabolomics/Metabonomics, Nanotechnology, High throughput Analysis, Bioinformatics.....One hundred and twenty eight oral lectures, and eight hundred and fifty four posters were presented during the conference. Everyday, four parallel oral sessions were carried on concurrently each morning and each afternoon. In addition, some interest group meetings were held at evening time for those who were interested in learning the basics of mass spectrometry or various specific aspects of mass spectrometry. Several large instrument vendors also offered various luncheon seminars to introduce their new products and to promote new applications with these instruments. This session provided a good chance to catch up with cutting edge technologies and advances in science.

My main research interest is ESI-MS application in studying non-covalent complex, particularly the interaction of proteins with small molecular ligands from natural product extracts. I mostly enjoyed the lecture on supramolecular complexes on Friday given by A. Van Dorsselaer. The non-covalent mass spectrometry has successfully solved many problems in supramolecular chemistry and in biology. The topic was closely related to my research, and I gained a lot of benefit from the lecture. I also enjoyed the lecture on electrospray ionization topic on Tuesday given by P. Kebarle. The formation of non-specific complexes in ESI mass spectrometry,

and the use of nanospray to minimize those complexes were investigated and presented. After the lecture, I obtained the whole picture of ESI technique and mechanism owing to a systematic and concise presentation.

I was given the opportunity to present my work, a poster, at the Tuesday poster session. Meeting and talking to people who were interested in my work has improved my confidence as a scientist and motivated me very much. The poster sessions provided a valuable occasion for me to view the work of other researchers and colleagues, and also an opportunity to talk and discuss with them.

Finally after five intensive days attending the conference, I found very fortunate to be able to participate in a prestigious conference. I was very grateful to BMSS for providing me the travel award. It gave me beneficial experience, not only about gaining knowledge about mass spectrometry but also about meeting and building up relationships with other researchers.

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