

BMSS Report, York 2005

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This was my first BMSS meeting and hence I did not really know what to expect. My genetics background on top of working on a proteomics project makes me a novice to physical mass spectrometry. However, always keen to learn something new and wanting to understand MS better I was looking forward to the meeting.

I submitted two abstracts for posters and both were accepted, something I did not expect and so I had to do a lot of work right before the conference. It was great to have two posters to present and I had a lot of feedback and questions towards my research. This has led to me rethinking some of experiments but also made me realize that the work I do is worth while. It was great; on the other hand, I was standing next to my posters during both sessions and had little time to look at the other posters especially since there were so many (139 in total). The posters were grouped in research topics such as Biological MS, Pharmaceutical MS or General MS to name only a few. Many of the posters were very interesting and talking to the presenters certainly taught me few more tips and tricks on how to present my own poster as well as research relevant advice.

Again the talks were arranged in parallel sessions and were so well organized that there was something interesting to go to in every session. Because the sessions were all impressively well timed, one could actually leave one session and see a talk in the parallel session without much interruption. Everyday started off with a Plenary Lecture which were all very interesting, I was very impressed by Prof David Clemmers' talk. He outlined the principles of ion mobility spectrometry (IMS) and how when coupled it can elucidate very complex mixtures such as the plasma proteome, analysing low abundant proteins in presence of proteins at very high abundance. Coupling IMS-IMS and IMSⁿ enables identification of 60,000 peaks in 20-60 CID spectra.

This year the presentations by young presenters were held on the first day of the conference and I found many of them very interesting and stimulating towards my own work. I particularly liked the talk by Erika Parkinson, on the first day; the comparison of MALDI-TOF vs. SELDI-TOF opened some interesting questions.

Many of the sessions were quite specialized and aimed at experienced mass spectrometry users, however I did learn a lot and now feel more confident when explaining MS to other non-chemists.

The last day had a Biological MS session and I was relieved to recognize many of the topics and felt more at home during the presentations. Again they were all brilliant and I met some more fellow scientists to keep in contact with for future information and maybe even the opportunity to help each other out one day.

Last but not least I would like to comment on the social program of the conference, which I enjoyed and used as an opportunity to chat to some of the Professors and leaders in the field. I won £5 at the races, which has to

count for something. The conference dinner turned into a night at a nightclub in the centre of York, at which I was amazed to find a few of the committee members letting their hair down. A very refreshing sight.

This now just leaves me to thank the organizers and I can only recommend the BMSS conference to other PhD student. I did not imagine it to be as relevant and inspiring as it was. Thank you very much.