

Advances in Ultracentrifuge Analysis

Fifth U.K. Analytical Ultracentrifuge Users Meeting Colloquium Organized and Edited by S. E. Harding (Department of Applied Biochemistry and Food Science, University of Nottingham) and K. Jumel (School of Biology, University of Nottingham). Held at the University of Nottingham, 26–27 March 1998.

Introductory remarks

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On the 26th and 27th March 1998, the 5th U.K. Analytical Ultracentrifuge Users Meeting – a Meeting of the Techniques and Protein and Peptides Groups of the Biochemical Society, in conjunction with the British Biophysical Society – took place at the National Centre for Macromolecular Hydrodynamics (N.C.M.H.) at the University of Nottingham's Sutton Bonington campus with generous support from Beckman U.K. These Meetings provide a platform for discussion and exchange of new ideas between all analytical ultracentrifuge users, and this meeting was no exception, with an attendance of more than one hundred delegates from the U.K., continental Europe, the U.S.A. and Australia, and 23 speakers elaborating on developments in conformational, structural and molar mass determination, transport methods, advances in analytical methods and molecular modelling.

In order to mark the retirement of Dr. Arthur Rowe from the University of Leicester, we were delighted to have as distinguished guests Professor Howard Schachman from the University of Berkeley, who gave the keynote lecture describing some of his work 'From ultracentrifuge studies to circularly permuted polypeptide chains' and Dr. J. Michael Creeth, whose interest in ultracentrifugation was initiated at the University of Nottingham over fifty years ago as a Ph.D. student under the supervision of Dr. D. O. Jordan.

Indeed, one of the first Spinco Model E ultracentrifuges in the U.K. was installed in the Department of Chemistry at the University of Nottingham. However, the appointment of Jordan as Professor of Chemistry at the University of Adelaide terminated Nottingham's link with analytical ultracentrifugation – a link restored in 1984 with the appointment of one of us (S.E.H.) to the Department of Applied Biochemistry and Food Science, located at the Sutton Bonington campus; and strengthened by the creation of the N.C.M.H. in 1987. This most enjoyable Meeting thus served to celebrate not only the recent history of analytical ultracentrifugation at Nottingham, but also the involvement of the University in the early days of the field (recently discussed elsewhere in relation to the contribution of the Jordan group to the discovery of the DNA double helix [1]), when development of the electrically operated ultracentrifuge by Spinco (later to become part of Beckman) paved the way for sedimentation studies to become a truly international discipline.

1 Jumel, K., Winzor, D. J. and Harding, S. E. (1998) *The Biochemist*, October, pages 53–55

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