32nd Cyprus-Noordwijkerhout-Camerino Symposium: Trends in Drug Research 2014

ARTICLE *in* CHEMMEDCHEM · AUGUST 2014

Impact Factor: 2.97 · DOI: 10.1002/cmdc.201402227 · Source: PubMed

2 AUTHORS, INCLUDING:

Thomas Mavromoustakos

National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

100 PUBLICATIONS **1,364** CITATIONS

ChemPubSoc Europe

DOI: 10.1002/cmdc.201402227

32nd Cyprus-Noordwijkerhout-Camerino Symposium: Trends in Drug Research 2014

Thomas Mavromoustakos*[a] and Andreas Tsotinis*[b]

The 32nd Cyprus-Noordwijkerhout-Camerino Symposium entitled Trends in Drug Research, held in Limassol (Cyprus) on May 18–22, 2014, left its stamp as a scientific event dressed with educational and historical flavor. Eighty participants from all over the world gathered on the beautiful island of Cyprus to exchange views, preview cutting edge technologies in drug discovery, and get a glimpse of things to come regarding methodologies in drug research.

The scientific program began on the Sunday evening with a welcome address by us, the conference chairmen (Figure 1), and the chairman of the organizing committee Evsevios Hadjicostas. This was followed by a short talk by the Cyprus Minister of Health, Philippos Patsalis, who pointed out the historical ambience and geographical location of the island as well as the dedication of the local scientists to cutting edge research. Among the many themes covered, he spoke about how scientific advances, new technologies, and novel perspectives, such as those to be presented and discussed in the symposium, are expected to draw not just knowledge but also inspiration and vision for the benefit of public health. The opening session continued with a brief talk from Anastasios Keramidas (University of Cyprus) about the reinvigoration of *Cypriot Chimica*, a communication platform for chemists in Cyprus. Dr. Keramidas invited all participants willing to address hot topics in chemistry to submit their articles to the communication platform. Kleomenis Barlos (University of Patras) gave a fascinating lecture on drug synthesis and the history of Chemical and Biopharmaceutical Laboratories (CBL), a global peptide manufacturing and technology company. Finally, Nicos Peristianis (University of Nicosia) described briefly and in an elegant manner the history of Cyprus and education on the island. The opening session concluded with a delightful welcome reception on the patio, with live traditional music and plenty of opportunity to discuss the interesting opening talks and the forthcoming science over good food and drink.

Figure 1. Conference chairmen, Thomas Mavromoustakos and Andreas Tsotinis, welcome delegates during the opening ceremony on the Sunday evening.

The Monday sessions were devoted to biophysical methodologies and drug discovery. The topics covered over the course of the day ranged from lipidic soft self-assembled drug nanocarriers (Anan Yagmur, University of Copenhagen) to the gating pathways in secondary transporters of NSS family (Sergei Noskov, University of Calgary), and the importance of solid state NMR spectroscopy in studying the structural and dynamic properties of drugs embedded within silicate mesopores and metal–organic framework materials (Gregor Mali, National Institute of Chemistry). Presentations from Maria Zervou (National Hellenic Research Foundation) and Steven Charlton (Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research) covered drug interactions with biomolecules by discussing the molecular basis of drug–membrane interactions and the observed drug–receptor association rates governed by membrane affinity, respectively. Fragment-based drug discovery was overviewed in a presentation by Roderick Hubbard (University of York, and Vernalis Ltd) and then later applied in a specific example by Raymond Booth in his talk on the structure-based drug design of serotonin 5-HT2 receptor ligands for the treatment of neuropsychiatric disorders.

Complementing the central theme of the sessions, a short talk to honor Prof. Alexandros Makriyannis (Northeastern University) was eloquently given by Thomas Mavromoustakos. Prof. Makriyannis has made significant contributions to the field of medicinal chemistry, and in particular the development of biophysical methodologies to study drug–membrane interactions, and was honored for his considerable contribution to science.

Tuesday morning was dedicated to in silico studies for rational drug design. Chemoinformatic approaches are used throughout the drug discovery process and across the full range of diseases and targets. Covering just a few of these, the conference delegates heard about how computational medicinal chemistry is being used to identify promising inhibitors of

[a] *Prof. T. Mavromoustakos*
Department of Chemistry, University of Athens
Zografou, 157 84 Athens (Greece)
E-mail: tmavrom@chem.uoa.gr

[b] *Prof. A. Tsotinis*
School of Health Sciences, Faculty of Pharmacy,
Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, University of Athens, Panepistimioupoli-Zografou, 157 71 Athens (Greece)
E-mail: tsotinis@pharm.uoa.gr

These are not the final page numbers! ↗↗