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Editorial

Pharmaceutical Science - translating innovation for delivery to patients: The 14th APS PharmSci International Conference

The 14th APS PharmSci International Conference was held at the University of Reading between the 5th and 7th September 2023.

The event attracted 347 delegates with approximately half being from pharmaceutical industry from 23 different companies and academic representatives from 34 different institutions. The conference theme was, "Pharmaceutical Science - translating innovation for delivery to patients".

The plenary speakers included Jo Craig, PharmSci Conference Chair for 2023 who spoke on, "Reflections on the Translation of Innovation for Patient Benefit". Her talk covered the span of her career and included some great insights from both large pharma and small biotech companies. Professor Abdul Basit from University College London was another plenary speaker and he entertained us all with a talk about the clinical translation of 3D printed medicines. Stephen Tindal, Director, Science and Technology at Catalent provided an overview of his work on optimising early development of oral small molecules using a data-driven approach to overcoming bioavailability challenges. Stephen's talk included some great examples of projects where he had helped steer the development of medicines which really brought the subject to life. A new format of fireside chats was introduced for 2023 where both Maureen Coleman and Bill Dawson were interviewed to provide an overview on their careers. This format was popular as it is inspiring to hear about others' journey to success.

In addition to the plenary lectures there were three APS award lectures, these award lectures represent different facets of pharmaceutical science. Professor David Jones (Queen's University Belfast) gave the APS award lecture which recognises sustained excellence in pharmaceutical science, his title was, "Acrylates, Hydrogels and Flashing Lights: designing

clinically relevant implants and drug delivery systems". The APS award lecture for innovative science was given by Professor Martin Whitaker (Royal Society Entrepreneur in Residence, The University of Sheffield) and was a great insight into the development of therapies for cortisol deficiency and showcased the many challenges involved in development outside large pharmaceutical industry. The final award lecture was presented to Dr Zahra Rattray (Senior Lecturer in Translational Pharmaceutics) as the emerging scientist; "A tale of badly behaving proteins, bioinspired delivery systems and inspirational women".

In addition to the plenary and award lectures the conference had three parallel scientific streams that were hosted by the APS focus groups and covered topics from biopharmaceutics, regulatory science, process engineering, skin, materials science, ATMPs, nanomedicines, drugs from natural sources, so there really was something for everyone. We were delighted to continue to partner with the UKICRS and JPAG for sessions within the APS programme.

A conference highlight was attending the poster sessions, which offered PhD researchers a platform to showcase their work. It is in these sessions that you often get insights into the very latest advancements in pharmaceutical science.

The conference featured a total of 129 posters, presenting additional opportunities for engaging with the upcoming generation of researchers. Although there were prizes for the best posters, the judges faced a challenging task in making their selections due to the abundance of excellent posters on display. This publication is a compilation of the submitted abstracts for the posters and podium sessions presented at the conference.

We genuinely relished the conference experience and gained valuable insights from all sessions, including the presentations and the poster sessions. It was truly wonderful to see such a diverse gathering of individuals coming together to celebrate pharmaceutical science and acknowledge its significance not only in the UK but also on a global scale. We are indebted to our sponsors and exhibitors for their support, the exhibition provided a lively basis for discussion and further opportunities for networking.

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