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Editorial

Pharmaceutical Science Without Borders: The 8th APS International PharmSci 2017

The Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences (APSGB) is delighted to partner with the British Journal of Pharmacy to publish key abstracts of posters presented at this year's APS PharmSci Conference held at the University of Hertfordshire 5th to 7th September 2017. The Conference is the premier pharmaceutical sciences event in the UK focussing on 'The Science of Medicines' and covers all aspects related to the discovery, development, production and testing of drug products.

This year's Conference which had the theme of 'Pharmaceutical Sciences without Borders' and was chaired by Professor Abdul Basit of UCL, maintained the high standard of previous years and featured over 200 posters spread over the three days. The abstracts presented here give an indication of the quality of science presented in the posters and readers wishing to learn more are directed to contact the authors.

Among this year's particular 'hot topics' were a number of abstracts on electrohydrodynamic atomization (encompassing electrospraying and electrospinning) where an electrical force is used to atomise a liquid and produce nano or micro scale particles or fibres for drug delivery. 3D printing was also featured with studies on biodegradable polymeric implants, calcium alginate foams to mimic bone and the formation of osteochondral plugs to repair bone damage.

Also of particular interest were advances in the use of dissolution testing to predict biopharmaceutics properties. In addition to abstracts on biorelevant media there were others on the study of release from a nipple shield drug delivery system and the use of different tools to study dissolution (including microphotogrammetry, Broadband Acoustic Resonance (BARDS) and ATR-FTIR).

Dosage form manufacture was covered with abstracts on continuous manufacturing technologies as applied to tablet and API manufacture and also including microfluidics. The impact of excipient properties both on drug release and dosage form manufacture was studied in a number of abstracts including ones covering hydrogels, PLGA and other polymeric excipients in addition to excipients for immediate release dosage forms.

Work on age-related medicines is becoming an increasing hot-topic. With a focus on the older population, there were poster presentations on the use of an artificial throat to model the safe swallowing of medicines for individuals with dysphagia and the acceptability of mini-tablets for older adults. At the other end of the age range an abstract described the development challenges of a disinfectant gel to prevent the development of umbilical cord infections in neonates.

Other abstracts covered the analysis of drugs, drugs from natural sources, the synthesis of NCEs; dermal, pulmonary and nasal delivery.

The next conference will be the APS@FIP in Glasgow on 7th September 2018, linking with the 78th FIP World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Science taking place in the city from the 2–6 September 2018. The one day APS conference will have its usual focus on the pharmaceutical sciences and will have as its theme 'The Science of Differentiated Medicines'.

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