

Fifth annual KinTek kinetics workshop: New enzymology
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The fifth annual kintek new enzymology kinetics workshop was held in beautiful Austin, Texas on 7.-12. January 2007. The workshop was organized by Dr. KA Johnson, one of the the leading researchers in the field of transient kinetics in the study enzyme reaction mechanisms. The workshop was thus an excellent and very exciting opportunity to learn about the newest techniques and theories in enzymology. After a short introduction to steady state methods, the workshop concentrated on single turnover methods in the analysis of enzyme reaction pathways, as well as the basis for the application of these methods to different enzyme systems. Examples from the lecturer's own studies of EPSP synthase, DNA polymerase and tryptophan synthase, as well as, several other enzymes complemented the deep insight on the theory of transient kinetics Dr. KA Johnson shared with the attendees of the workshop. Especially interesting was the evening spent discussing developments in the application of single molecule methods to the study of the kinetics of various enzymes, e.g. the kinesin-ATPase.

The city of Austin is often referred to as the live music capital of the USA and this was reflected in the social programme of the workshop. Excursions to local cowboy bars, such as the fast-paced "Broken Spoke", famous for its 2-step dancing and the more jovial Esther's bottom comedy club and its cowboy-style stand-up comedy were among the highlights of the trip. In conclusion, the workshop was a complete success and was highly successful in propagating my development as a scientist and enzyme kineticist.