

NORDIC-QP / EuPA COURSE
BASIC MASS SPECTROMETRY FOR PROTEOMICS

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QUANTITATIVE PROTEOMICS

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The course "Basic mass spectrometry for proteomics" was organized by the Nordic Education Network for Quantitative Proteomics Nordic-QP, the main driving forces for this course being Dr. Garry Corthals (Turku) and prof. Peter James (Lund, Sweden). The course was an excellent introduction to the proteomics world. My own background is in mass spectrometry, and therefore for me the most important part was the proteomics methodologies, spectra interpretation and data handling.

The course was lectured by prof. Peter James, and the practical workshops were led by his staff at the Lund University, Division of Protein Technology. The course schedule was very intense, we went through basic operations of mass spectrometry, the different types of mass spectrometers and ionisation methods. We were also given an introduction on proteomics methods in sample preparation and on the data interpretation, which was the most rewarding part of the course. The mostly used databases for automatic interpretation of the spectra were also shown to us.

The idea with the course was to introduce new people to the field of proteomics, and the student participating the course were not, in most cases, in advance familiar either with the instrumentation or with the proteomics methods. Although the course starting-point was therefore a bit difficult, the course succeeded in being an excellent, well-structured unity that gave a lot of information on many different aspects. In general I think that the participants will be able, or at least better equipped, to start their own proteomics projects and to analyse and evaluate data produced by others.

This course was a part from a series of courses organized by the Nordic-QP in collaboration with the EuPA. I most highly recommend these courses to anyone who considers that the world of proteomics could be of benefit to their research!!

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