

INTERNATIONAL MASS SPECTROMETRY CONFERENCE,  
IMSC, IN BREMEN, GERMANY  
29<sup>TH</sup> OF AUGUST – 4<sup>TH</sup> OF SEPTEMBER

AND

RESEARCH VISIT TO THE LEIBNIZ-INSTITUTE OF FRESHWATER  
ECOLOGY AND INLAND FISHERIES, IN BERLIN, GERMANY  
5.-18.9.2009

The IMSC conference in Bremen, Germany, was the mass spectrometry event of the year. The congress was participated by more than 2600 researchers all over the world, and the latest innovations and research developments were all presented in that conference.

The two main breakthrough technologies in current mass spectrometry seem to be the Orbitrap technology providing high mass accuracies with fast scan rates, and the coupling of ion mobility to mass spectrometry. A fantastic lecture was given by Dr. Carol Robinson from the University of Cambridge, describing very advanced structural elucidation of proteins by the means of ion mobility-mass spectrometry.

Furthermore, two mass spectrometer manufacturers, Thermo and Bruker, provided tours to their factories in Bremen, an extremely interesting insight into the developing and manufacturing side of mass spectrometry!

The laboratory at the Leibniz institute of freshwater ecology and inland fisheries share our interests in the cyanobacterial toxins, microcystins. Heads of the laboratory visited are Prof. Claudia Wiegand and Prof. Stephan Pflugmacher. The purpose of my trip was to set-up and implement a method used for the detection of covalently bound microcystins from animal tissues, a method that has recently been further optimised in our laboratory. The goals for the visit were fulfilled during the very hectic two weeks.

Overall the visit with the conference combined to research visit could not have been better!

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