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The 11th Scandinavian Symposium on Chemometrics, Loen, Norway, 8–11 June 2009

The Scandinavian Symposium on Chemometrics (SSC) was arranged in Loen, one of the most spectacular sites in Western Norway. The participants experienced the great hospitality provided by the staff at Alexandra and Loenfjord hotels beautifully located by the Loenfjord. This was the 11th symposium in the series and the third time the symposium was arranged in Norway. The first symposium took place in Lappeenranta in October 1988 and was chaired by Prof. Pentti Minkkinen who was also present in Loen. The second symposium was held in Bergen in May 1991 and was chaired by Olav M. Kvalheim. The idea of starting a series of Scandinavian symposia came up during a banquet on a workshop in Umeå in 1987. Late in the evening, Minkkinen and Kvalheim decided that it was time to establish a Scandinavian Symposium in order to disseminate the chemometrics message to a broader audience. Due to the efforts of Svante Wold and other pioneers, chemometrics was already established as a stronghold in Scandinavia, but only Finland had a national chemometric society at that time.

A lot of things have changed during the 21 years this symposium has been in existence. In the first years, a lot of the focus was on methods and applications of design and PLS to different applications. During the 1990s, process analysis became a hot topic. It should be mentioned that this area was already launched in 1983 by Bruce R. Kowalski and co-workers. They founded the Centre for Process Analytical Chemistry (CPAC) at the University of Washington in Seattle. But, as always, it took some years before the field really took off. For the 2009 symposium, process analysis and theoretical developments were still important topics, but it was also evident that -omics sciences had become hot areas for chemometrics. The large number of contributed presentations made it necessary to run parallel sessions. Hopefully, we managed to partition the contributions in such a way that most participants were able to listen to their favourite topics.

At the 2009 meeting, we celebrated two important occasions. In May 1989, the Norwegian Chemometrics Society had their founding meeting in Norheimsund, close to Bergen. Thus, the Norwegian Chemometric Society celebrated their 20 years anniversary at SSC11. On the first meeting, we had invited lectures by Svante Wold, Olav Christie, Kim Esbensen and a few other pioneers from Norway and Sweden. The society was started as a section of The Norwegian Chemical Society with Kvalheim as the first chairman. Every year the Norwegian society has arranged a winter meeting with presentations from Norwegian chemometricians and a few invited speakers from abroad. In 2008 the members decided that the meetings will be organized biannually in order to avoid competition with the Scandinavian Symposium.

So, in Loen, we had a good number of Norwegian participants. In order to celebrate this important anniversary, we had an opening session with the Norwegian pioneer Olav Christie. This session was chaired by the first honorary member of the Norwegian Chemometric Society, Svante Wold. Due to generous funding from the Norwegian Chemometric Society, we had invited lectures from two other Norwegians as well, Rolf Manne and Ragnar Nordtvedt.

We had also another important celebration session, the 35 years anniversary for the International Chemometric Society (ICS) which was founded on 10 June 1974 in Seattle. For this session, we had invited lectures from the two founding fathers, Bruce R. Kowalski and Svante Wold. They both retired some years ago. I think many will say much too early, but they generously shared their history and thoughts on chemometrics' future with the participants during 10th June, exactly 35 years after they started ICS in Seattle. Lars Munck chaired this memorable session and also provided some philosophical thoughts on chemometrics (see also paper in this issue).

On the banquet the same evening, Olav Christie and Bruce R. Kowalski were appointed as honorary members of the Norwegian Chemometric Society for their excellent contributions



Figure 1. New honorary members of the Norwegian Chemometric Society; Olav Christie (left) and Bruce Kowalski (right).



Figure 2. New and old Herman Wold medallists together with the chairman of the Swedish Chemometric Society, from left to right: Lennart Eriksson, Olav M. Kvalheim, Rolf Carlson, Johan Trygg, Svante Wold, Torbjörn Lundstedt (chairman), Harald Martens, Pentti Minkinen and Michael Sjöström.

to chemometrics (see Figure 1). The chairman of the Swedish Chemometric Society, Torbjörn Lundstedt, awarded Lennart Eriksson and Johan Trygg the Herman Wold medal, in silver and gold, respectively, for their scientific achievements. They could celebrate together with Michael Sjöström who got his gold medal the year before and most of the earlier medallists (see Figure 2). Kurt Varmuza (see Figure 3) got the Wiley award for the best oral contribution for his talk about double cross validation. The Wiley award for the best poster contribution was handed over to Kristian Hovde Liland (see Figure 4). The committee for the Wiley award consisted of Olav Christie, Bruce R. Kowalski and Svante Wold.

There are two scientific journals devoted to the publication of chemometric papers: *Journal of Chemometrics* which was founded by Bruce R. Kowalski, and *Chemometrics and Intelligent Laboratory Systems* which was founded by Luc Massart. Both journals are important propagators for the chemometric message and have published the proceedings of SSC many times before. This time the scientific committee decided to publish the contributions as a special issue of the *Journal of Chemometrics*.

We would like to thank all 140 participants for coming to Loen. In a tough economic climate, they chose to spend money and time to be present at SSC11. The staff at Alexandra and Loenfjord hotel and the devoted work of the organizing committee provided the settings for a successful conference. The conference secretary Tarja Rajalahti worked around the clock the last months and was a secretariat on her own.

Warm thanks goes to all our sponsors: the section for research at the University of Bergen, the chemometric section of the Norwegian Chemical Society, Foss Analytical, Prediktor, Pattern Recognition Systems, Marine Harvest, Umetrics, Wiley and Scandinavian Airlines as official carrier for the symposium. These

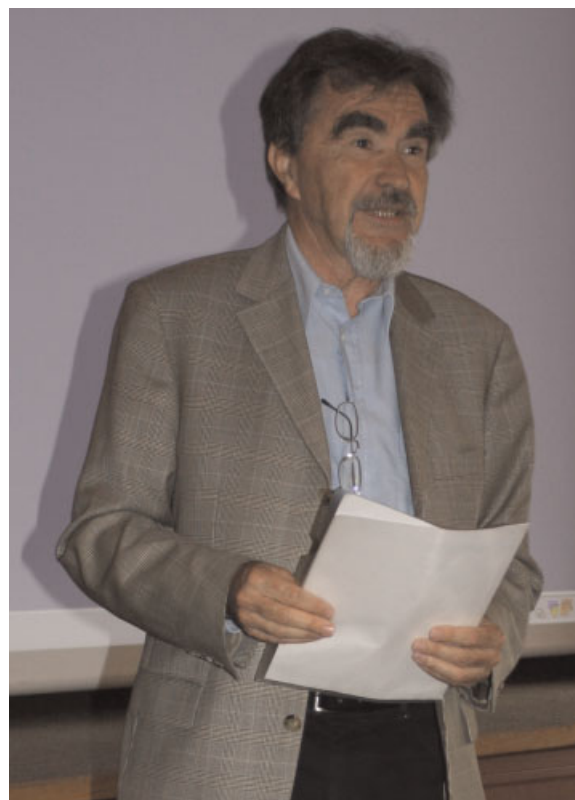


Figure 3. The Wiley award for the best oral presentation: Kurt Varmuza.



Figure 4. Winner and runners-up for the Wiley award for the best poster (from left): Christophe Tistaert (runner-up), Kristian Hovde Liland (winner), José Manuel Amigo & Raquel M. Callejón (runner-up) and Mario Li Vigni (runner-up).

organizations stood up for our symposium in a time facing the most serious economic downturn after the 2nd world war. Without their support, there would have been no symposium this year.

Welcome to the next SSC to be held at Legoland hotel in Billund, Denmark, 7–10 June 2011.

All photos were taken by Tarja Rajalahti.

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