

## Goodbye

Dear Friends,

Unfortunately as often said 'all good things come to an end'!!!

These have been 4 amazing years, actually 5 if we think about the 12 months of hard work to secure the grant. I look back at 2006 and I feel privileged to have been the Coordinator of such a successful Network and to have been involved with the training of such interesting and bright researchers.

I was invited by Vanessa to attend a Marie Curie Conference in Brussels on the 9th December 2010

where I gave a presentation about my experience with the Marie Curie Actions and, as you can see from the picture above, you were all there with me!

I know that quite a large number of NASCENT researchers are keeping in touch and that further follow up collaborations have developed among the teams. This is a clear testimonial to the effectiveness of our Network and the overall work delivered.

I hope that you have enjoyed this Project as much as I have and I wish you all the best for your future.

**Marina**

Merry Christmas and Happy 2011



SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME



Queen Mary  
University of London



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# THE MIPPERS IN NEW ORLEANS

By Giorgio De Faveri

Two years passed from the last International Conference on Molecular Imprinting in Kobe, Japan, and now, in 2010, the times were ripe again for the next meeting to take place. This year the “mippers” flew to New Orleans, in the United States; the homeland of Jazz and Blues but also the theatre of a human tragedy, the devastating hurricane Katrina of 2005 that left deep scars in the city, some of which still visible today.

Over four intense days, over 40 research talks and plenary lectures were held in the conference hall of the sumptuous Royal Sonesta hotel, located in Bourbon Street, the loud and vibrant heart of the city, while the room next door was crowded with posters depicting the work of many young researchers from all over the globe. Many prizes were also conferred this year; among others, Cristopher Allender for hosting the first meeting on molecular imprinting and Ken Shea for his pioneering work in the field. The organisation of the meeting was successfully and smoothly run by David Spivak and his research group of the Louisiana State University. Spivak and his collaborators have been working efficiently in the months before the meeting and during the four hectic days and provided the guests with a superb all-round experience of science, gastronomy, luxury (with a gala

and of course by the researchers working in the respective groups. A mention for excellence in style should have gone to Dr. Bonomi of Queen Mary, for the “relaxed chic Italian-style” he boasted for his talk (on the right).



But the experience in New Orleans was more than just research talks and presentations; just one step outside the, freezing, air-conditioned hotel, the hot and sweaty, boozy carnival crowd of Bourbon Street was ready to welcome us at any time (quite literally, I haven't seen any of those bars closing, ever). Smokey clubs lit like big creole Christmas trees populated every step of the walk, blasting rock music in an attempt to overwhelm their neighbours, but they still left enough space for more cosy and relaxed Blues and Jazz bars where we saw epic piano and guitar battles between musicians. The hotel itself hosted one of



dinner on a real paddle boat on the Mississippi river) and...alligators (organising a boat tour of the wetlands). NASCENT, of course, was present with a large delegation of speakers and research students from the university of Compiegne, Queen Mary University of London, the Complutense of Madrid, the Universidade Nova of Lisbon, the Institute of Physical Chemistry of Warsaw, the University of Technology and Economics of Budapest; all presenting the latest advances in their respective fields.

Extremely interesting talks were given by Dr. Resmini, Dr. Moreno-Bondi, Dr. Haupt, Dr. Kutner, Dr. Horvath



the most renowned Jazz clubs in town.

In our explorations of the nightlife of the "big easy" we also touched Frenchman Street, far from the craziness of her sister Bourbon, with his small clubs, favourite destination of the locals looking for a chilled out night.

The food was an adventure of its own, with rich flavours in every dish, like the blackened fish, roasted fillets of exotic fishes covered in crab meat, Gumbo, Jambalaya and of course, oysters of the gulf (well cleaned hopefully) but also weird combinations like caramelised bacon as an appetizer.



The conference was a great experience under every aspect, and it left me wishing to go back and explore N'Awlins (for locals only) and live it through the madness of the carnival, but also to appreciate how life is in this warm capital of the south, to get under its skin and see what it's hiding under the surface.

I want to conclude with my biggest thanks to Dr. Resmini for making this dream of mine come true and with a big hug to all the friends from NASCENT I met there. Thank you all guys, for an amazing time!





**MIP2010**

# 6TH INTERNATIONAL MEETING ON MOLECULAR IMPRINTING

**NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, AUGUST 8-12, 2010**

By Pamela Pasetto and Bernadette Tse Sum Bui

For our group whose main research interest is molecular imprinting, the MIP2010 meeting in New Orleans was a 'not to be missed' event.

Though the whole trip would sum up to a top budget, almost all the team (see our new website: <http://www.utc.fr/mip/>) had the chance to go.

So, four sleepy PhD students and ourselves left Compiègne on Saturday, August 7 for the 11 hours of flight which will take us to New Orleans.

The first encounter with the high temperature (high both in degrees Celsius and in the exotic degrees Fahrenheit) combined with the exhausting humidity

and the 'HOT' atmosphere of Bourbon Street (looks pretty much like our 'quartier Pigalle' in Paris but without the famous erotic museum) was quite disorienting but the classy Royal Sonesta Hotel where we were all staying and where the conferences were taking place, provided a cool refuge.

Though tired, we were all hungry and decided to experience Cajun cuisine in a nearby restaurant where we were served the wrong food due to our *perfe*. The food was so-so but the jetlagged scientists were too happy to eat and go to bed quickly, in order to be at their tip-top form for the following days.

On Monday morning, thanks to the comfortable beds, refreshing swimming-pool and great air-conditioning at the hotel, we were all very well rested and ready to listen to the 50 presentations scheduled for the 4 days.

**The NASCENT family was well represented with talks given by Marina Resmini and Paolo Bonomi (QMUL, London), Karsten Haupt, Bernadette Tse Sum Bui and Pinar Cakir (CNRS, France), Maria Cruz Moreno-Bondi (UCM, Spain), Włodzimierz Kutner (IPC, Poland) and Viola Horvath (BME, Hungary). Students from those teams were also active with presentations of their posters.**

It was our second MIP conference and we were looking forward to see and hear the novelties and applications of this ever-increasing research area. If we were to retain one word, recurrent in several presentations, it will be 'aptamer', a barbaric term to purum, >99.0% chemists. Also, it appears that we imprinters have become quite good at imprinting every sort of small chemicals with a preference for propranolol (success guaranteed!) and more challenging biological molecules as well, like proteins, enzymes, DNA... Concerning MIP formats, the traditional rigid bulk polymers to be crushed and sieved before use, seem to belong more and more to the prehistoric world – nowadays it is more trendy to prepare nanogels, microspheres, thin films, composite materials. Though there was only half the number of participants as compared to MIP2008 in Kobe, molecular imprinting technique remains very popular in the academic field and it was very stimulating to meet and talk with other young and enthusiastic scientists from around the world.



Besides, we enjoyed the jazz bands, the free dinners (a big thank-you to Marina and NASCENT), the voodoo museum and the memorable social events: the alligator tour was awesome and the tour on the paddle-wheel boat on the mythic Mississippi river by night was a relaxing and happy moment.

What about the future of molecular imprinting? We will see the advances in two years time at MIP2012 which will be organised by our group. So, rendez-vous in 'Gai Paris'!





European  
Commission

Marie Curie  
Conference

Turin, Italy  
1-2 July 2010



What is the future of young researchers? The question is even more fascinating than that of prince Hamlet: "To be or not to be?"

In fact one of the biggest issues for a young scientist is to pursue stable employment either in University, or in a company.

The "Marie Curie satellite event", that took place on 1-2 of July 2010 in Torino, was focused on this crucial matter.

There were many PHD students and Post docs attending the conference and they were all listening intently to professors and lecturers, who were talking of their own successful careers, hoping to absorb some of their ambition and success!

Unfortunately a recipe that ensures an immediate fortune doesn't exist, but the message was: plan the future, be professional and honest.

Good luck to everybody.







in English... I'm still surprising that my colleagues/friends like me even if communicating was sometimes difficult. When I was leaving London, I was happy with sad eyes.

But I have to thank the Resmini's group and Marina. Everyone greeted me enthusiastically.

Thanks to Paolo for taking care of all my chemical troubles, thanks to Rita for having always translated the exact word to let me understand the en-

## One way flight Venice - London

on the 3rd of February. I was ready to leave for six months my normal life to land hopefully in an amazing experience.

The four first days were spent to looking for a flat and they were terrible. But when I had arrived at Queen Mary University I felt that everything could have got fine.

The working aim was already clear so I have started my reactions and in the same way I have started my new laboratory life: funny moments, chemical helps and failures, speaking difficulties, lunches, new friends and new learnt things.

At the beginning I felt myself in a small Italy because it was easier to talk and above all to trust to Italian people. Then the desire to enjoy intensely London brought me to get in touch with people from any countries. I remember the first time that I felt myself talking

tire talk, thanks to Judith for her patience with my English and for having often come with me in the store, thanks to Marina for creating a so tight-knit group and let me take part in it

*Silvia Pavan*



# Aurelien after NASCENT

## A successful scientific career



NASCENT meetings, it was so beneficial, and I really miss those interactions. Basically, when I was doing my Marie-Curie postdoc in Madrid (I miss Spain so much), Maria-Cruz sent me to UTC in Compiègne, to join Karsten's group for my secondment (what a lovely time I had once again, thanks to Ana and Arnaud). Then before heading back to Madrid, Karsten asked me what my plans were for the future, to which he told me about a scientist called Olivier Poncelet working at the CEA Grenoble who was looking for a postdoc dealing with nanotechnologies. I applied, and the rest is History (by the way, Karsten, I still own you a bottle of champagne)! Never underestimate the power of the NASCENT network! Always remember and interact as much as you can with each other, then, you might meet people who will appreciate your CV, and you will end up getting a job.

My international road trip took and end on the 21st of March 2008 (my birthday actually), when I landed in Paris! After passing by many countries (UK, South Africa, Spain) I got another postdoc in France, at the CEA of Grenoble. Then after submitting 4 patents and writing 2 publications I signed for a permanent position end of December 2009. This was a nice Christmas present. I am currently a member of the "NanoChemistry and NanoSafety laboratory". And a new member has joined us about 6 months ago, but she will introduce herself later on...

If you start thinking: "How the hell from a Ph.D. in organic chemistry he ended up dealing with nanomaterials and safety" listen to the following story. I can tell you that first, it was a really enriching experience to meet all of you, and to assist to the



Coming back to France after ten years was a bit of a difficulty, you know what I mean, to get used to those French frogs habits again... Anyway, now, I am settling down, trying to buy a nice flat, and enjoying hiking in the Chartreuse Mountain in summer, and then skiing in winter, lovely! And a very important thing is: my family. I can see my family as soon as I want and that is priceless.

Thanks to all of you (ER, ESR, Sylvie, and the academic and industrial participants) again for making that experience so special. I wish you all the best, and please, keep in touch (Rita, are you still alive?! Special thanks to Marina for the perpetual efforts you put in what became a successful European network.

Take all good care.

Aurelien



# It's not a small world... it's a large Network

Where do you think I ended up after I had to leave Kodak European Research (Cambridge), one of the industrial partners in Nascent ?

Back in France, in the same lab as Aurélien Auger, a former Nascent fellow you probably all remember!

In July 2009, I started a position of Research Scientist at CEA (Commissariat à l'Énergie Atomique et aux Énergies Alternatives), a French government-(partly) funded technological research organisation.

I am now working on projects funded by industrial partners, related to traceability and nano-safety, not involving MIPs so far but who knows if I won't need them in the future...

It took me a while to re-adapt to my native country France, the French are so rude! but the location Grenoble is breathtaking : imagine a

chemistry lab only 30 minutes away from some famous ski resorts in the Alps!

I take advantage of these few lines to thank again Marina Resmini for all her dedication to make this network work. It was also a great opportunity to meet you all and to work with you through Nascent.

Finally, just to make my point that networking is a key for success, a little example : I am now working with a former Kodak colleague who took part in the initial discussions with Marina and Karsten when they submitted the Nascent proposal in 2006. See ?

All the best and keep networking!

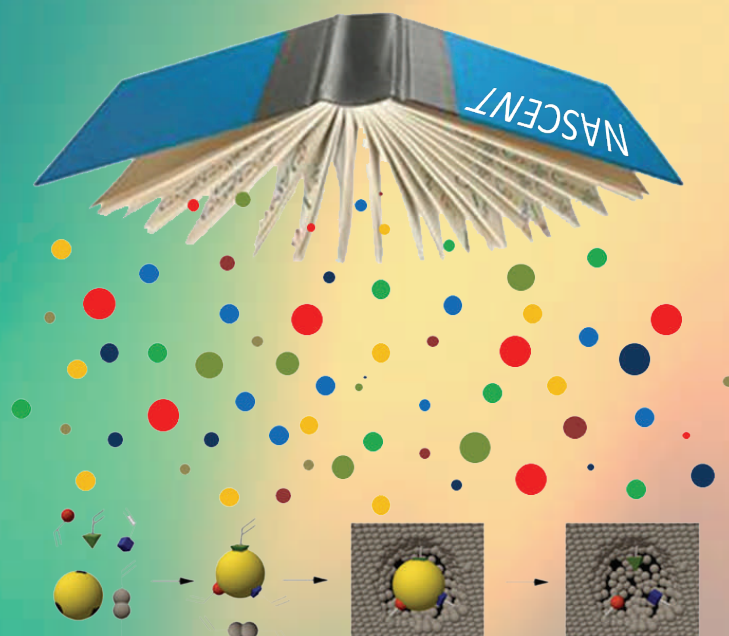
*Stephanie*



Soon to be published

# The **NASCENT** book

Molecular Imprinting  
Technology and Applications



WRITTEN BY ALL **NASCENT** ESRs, ERs AND PIs

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## **NASCENT**

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