



Comment from the editor-in-chief about the Special Issue “A perspective of drug delivery and translational research in Europe”

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The Special Issue entitled “A perspective of drug delivery and translational research in Europe”, edited by Maria J. Blanco and Helena Florindo is meant to illustrate the sciences and technologies presented at the 13th Spanish-Portuguese Conference on Controlled Drug Delivery that took place on January 22–24, 2020, at the University of Santiago de Compostela (USC), Spain. This conference was not only a relevant Conference but also the celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Spanish-Portuguese Local Chapter of the Controlled Release Society (SPLC-CRS). I had the honor to promote the funding of this local chapter together with my good friend Eugenia Meirinhos da Cruz, at the time, from the University of Lisbon.

The initiative to start the Spanish-Portuguese Local Chapter of the Controlled Release Society (SPLC-CRS) came from Professor Nicholas Peppas, who was a board member of the CRS at the time and the originator of the initiative to create Local Chapters. In my view, as a former president of the CRS who has been involved with the Society for 25 years, this initiative has been one of the most successful activities in the long history of CRS. In fact, currently CRS has 17 different Chapters around the globe, a number that grows every year, expanding the global reach of CRS. At the *DDTR* journal, we have a close association with these local chapters thanks to our Associate Editor, Avi Schroeder.

The European Local Chapters of the CRS participated in the celebration of our 25th Anniversary: namely, the United Kingdom-Ireland Local Chapter, the Nordic Local Chapter, the BeNeLux & France Chapter, the Germany Local Chapter, the Greece Local Chapter, the Italian Local Chapter, and the Turkish Local Chapter. It

was a great gathering of scientists from across Europe. We also counted with the participation of Professor Avi Schroeder, from Technion—Israel Institute of Technology, as a *DDTR* Associate Editor representing the Local Chapters of the CRS.

In addition, during the conference we were delighted to hear outstanding presentations by a CRS former president, Professor Florence, and several CRS board members.

Prof. Florence, Emeritus Professor, University College of London, UK, a pioneer of the sciences pertaining to the colloidal systems as delivery carriers, presented a plenary lecture on “A «nano» trajectory and the complexities of targeting”. His talk has been translated as a *DDTR* Inspirational Note that you may find for free at: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s13346-020-00877-3>.

Prof. Steven R. Little, from the University of Pittsburgh, USA, Focus Groups Editor of *DDTR*, presented his plenary talk: “Controlling ‘Controlled Release’ to Make Medicine That Imitates Life” and Prof. Mark Prausnitz, from the Georgia Institute of Technology, USA, Inspirational Notes Editor of *DDTR*, presented his plenary talk: “Microneedle patch technology for long-acting contraception and dermal interstitial fluid diagnostics”. Its associated *DDTR* article maybe found at: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s13346-021-00927-4>.

The meeting also counted with the participation of several other invited speakers, as well as with all the former presidents of the SPLC-CRS and a significant representation from European Industries. It was a nice step forward in the long trajectory that I envision for the CRS because I will always be a CRS/*DDTR* person at heart.

I want to thank the members of the committee who organized this conference, namely: Prof. Dolores Torres (chair), Prof. Bruno Sarmento, Prof. May Evora, Prof. Helena Florindo, and Maria J. Blanco; a committee I had the honor to join. My very special thanks to Prof. Helena Florindo and Maria J. Blanco for editing this very special *DDTR* Issue.

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At the end of the day, we realize that all this was only possible thanks to Prof. Nicholas Peppas's original idea of starting the Local Chapters. We want to express our thanks to him for being there then, and for his current help as a senior adviser to *DDTR*.

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