

Where 2B&Y

qPCR Technology

3–6 March 2004, Freising-Weihenstephan, Germany

The **1st International qPCR Symposium & Application Workshop** will be held 3–6 March 2004 at the Center of Life Science in Freising Weihenstephan, Technische Universität München.

The polymerase chain reaction (PCR) is the most sensitive technique to detect low-abundance mRNA and minute amounts of DNA typically present in tissue samples. Real-time reverse transcription PCR (qPCR or kinetic RT-PCR) is rapidly becoming the method of choice for quantitative gene expression analysis and molecular diagnostics owing to its high sensitivity, excellent reproducibility, and wide dynamic quantification range. However, this ultra-high sensitivity makes qPCR susceptible to experimental error, variations in experimental protocols, and the presence of contaminants in complex biological samples. Successful applications of qPCR require understanding of the practical problems associated with sample handling, including

careful experimental design, assay optimization, appropriate validation, and proper data treatment.

The symposium will focus on all aspects of qPCR technology and its applications in research and diagnostics. Leading academic researchers and industrial contributors in the field will participate in the symposium, which will provide an arena for fruitful discussions between researchers of different backgrounds. More than 35 internationally renowned speakers will be participating in a lively and exciting program, enabling the valuable exchange of information in the qPCR field.

The symposium and associated Application Workshop offer an overview of the present knowledge and future developments in qPCR technology and its wide applications. The workshop will offer hands-on training by leading experts in qPCR. Parallel to the symposium, an industrial exhibition will take place, featuring real-time PCR cyclers, kit producers, nucleic acid purification systems, enzyme producers, plasticware suppliers, and others.

 www.wzw.tum.de/gene-quantification/qpcr2004



Heterocyclic Chemistry

9–10 March 2004, Gainesville, Florida, USA

Continuing a highly successful series, the **5th Florida Heterocyclic Conference** will be held 7–10 March 2004. The conference will open with a Welcome Mixer on the evening of Sunday 7 March. On 8 March, delegates will have three options: (i) Professors Dan Comins and Alan Katritzky will give a six hour overview of heterocyclic chemistry, providing an opportunity for chemists who are not familiar with all its aspects to gain an insight into the fundamental concepts underlying the subject; (ii) oral presentations on a wide variety of heterocyclic topics; (iii) a half-day hands-on practical workshop entitled "Microwaves Applied to Preparative Organic Chemistry." A poster session combined with a buffet supper will follow that evening. On 9 and 10 March, Tuesday and Wednesday, 12 experts from academia and industry will present plenary lectures with results from their latest research.

Organic and medicinal chemists of Ph.D. or M.Sc. level, particularly those with industrial experience, as well as industrial chemists from the pharmaceutical, biotech, agrochemical, colorants, flavors and fragrances, and chemical industries are encouraged to attend. Attendees will have the opportunity to present

a poster or to make an oral contribution at this meeting, if arranged in advance.

Registration includes all conference sessions; buffet supper and wine at the mixer on 7 March and at the poster section on 8 March; lunches and refreshments on 8, 9, and 10 March; and a copy of the conference manual with notes on the lectures and the heterocyclic course.

The 5th Florida Heterocyclic Conference will follow a conference on "Microwave Applications to Chemistry" organized by CEM Corporation ("Innovators in Microwave Technology"). A reduced rate is available for attendees at both conferences.

See Calendar on page 34 for contact information

 www.arkat-usa.org/ark/conferences/FLOHET/introduction4.htm

How to Apply for IUPAC Sponsorship

Conference organizers are invited to complete an Application for IUPAC Sponsorship (AIS) preferably 2 years and at least 12 months before the Conference. Further information on granting sponsorship is included in the AIS and is available upon request from the IUPAC Secretariat or online at www.iupac.org/symposia/application.html.