Introduction

The 38th European Peptide Symposium was held in Vienna, Austria, 6-11 September 2026, and its success was made possible by the contributions of 993 registered participants from 45 countries, alongside the generous support of over 35 sponsors and exhibitors. With a rich program featuring 70 oral presentations, 12 young scientist communications, and 566 posters, the symposium stood out as a significant milestone in advancing the dynamic field of peptide science.

The International Scientific Advisory Board played a key role in shaping the program, ensuring a comprehensive blend of traditional and innovative topics. These included advancements in peptide chemistry, cutting-edge industry technologies, emerging peptide-based applications, bioactive and therapeutic peptides, antimicrobial and antiviral peptides, peptide structural studies, computational approaches to peptide discovery, delivery systems, peptide materials, and the intersection of peptides with chemical biology. This diversity provided opportunities for both seasoned researchers and early-career investigators, with special emphasis on young scientists.

The 2026 symposium introduced several exciting new features to enhance engagement and accessibility. For the first time, the program included a dedicated Career Development Workshop, as well as a session on translational peptide drug development featuring speakers from industry and small biotech companies, including university spin-offs, followed by a panel discussion.

The impact and breadth of the symposium are reflected in this Proceedings book. Thanks to the new format, which incorporates PDF contributions of lectures and posters, this collection showcases 280 poster contributions and 10 lectures, capturing the wide range of topics addressed during the symposium.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all participants, invited speakers, the International Scientific Advisory Board, the Local Organizing Committee, including the Local Helper Team, the University of Vienna event team and our sponsors and exhibitors. Your invaluable contributions have made this symposium a truly memorable and impactful event.

Christian Gruber & Christian Becker

Editor's Comments

This proceedings format follows the test from the last symposium in Italy. Since many Symposium participants were experiencing this type of meeting for the first time, many of them had no idea that the production of symposium proceedings has a long tradition, starting with the first peptide symposium in Prague in 1958, organized by Professors Rudinger and Šorm. Every word presented at that meeting, including the discussion after each lecture, was transcribed and published in the special issue of Collection of Czechoslovak Chemical Communication, which became the first book of proceedings. Nowadays not everything can be included in the book of proceedings, but since everything is available in the electronic form, we can try to compile most of the materials presented at the time of the meeting in this Collection.

So, the format of the proceedings book is based on the following principles:

• Every lecture or poster is available in electronic form – usually as PowerPoint presentation or pdf file.

• Once the lecture or poster is presented at the symposium, everything in it is legally public knowledge.

• Presentation at the meeting is considered preliminary publication and should not prevent publication of the full version of the particular paper in Science or Nature or anywhere else.

• Every presentation receives the doi identifier once it is included in The Proceedings.

• Authors did not have to do anything else in addition to preparing their lecture or poster. Just submit their pdf through The Proceedings web site.

In this way the original idea of the founders utilizing the technologies which were not available at their time is revitalized. (Personally, I believe that Prof. Rudinger would approve of this without hesitation.)

Some observations from this year's book production. We still did not achieve the goal of including everything what was presented in this symposium, especially the lectures. Only 12% were submitted. Poster's situation is much better – 280 posters are included in the proceedings – about 50% of all posters were captured and provided with DOI numbers. Out of all submitted pdfs only 8 (1.2%) were created as the classical proceedings papers.

Let us hope that the next European Peptide Symposium will have even higher success in capturing all new ideas presented there!

Michal Lebl

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Awards

Josef Rudinger Memorial Award

Sponsored by PolyPeptide Group

The Josef Rudinger Memorial Lecture Award is presented "in commemoration of Josef Rudinger's role in the foundation of the European Peptide Symposia and of diverse contributions he made to peptide chemistry".

Awardee: Norbert Sewald, University of Bielefeld, Germany



Leonidas Zervas Award

The Leonidas Zervas Award is presented in commemoration of his outstanding contributions to peptide science. The award is given to the scientist who has made the most outstanding contributions to the chemistry, biochemistry and/or biology of peptides in the five years preceding the date of selection and is sponsored by the donation of **Dr. Rao Makineni**.

Awardee: Steven Ballett, Free University of Brussels, Belgium



Miklós Bodanszky Award

Sponsored by BCN Peptides

The Miklos Bodanszky Award is presented in commemoration of Miklos Bodanszky's contributions to peptide research, to a young scientist who has in the opinion of the General Assembly of the Society made the most outstanding contribution to peptide research in the period of maximum ten years after obtaining the PhD degree.

Awardee: Anne Conibear, Technical University of Vienna, Austria



Invited speakers

Paramjit Arora
Gaurav Bhardwaj
Jeffrey Bode
Florence Brunel
Jayanta Chatterjee
Irene Coin
Paul Alan Cox
Bobo Dang
Phil Dawson
Marta De Zotti
Maurice Elphick
Nicolas Gilles
Ranganath Gopalakrishnan
Tom N. Grossmann
Nina Hartrampf
Alexander Hauser
Christian Heinis
Sonia Henriques
Kata Horvati
Yasuhiro Kajihara
Daniela Kalafatovic
Roland Kersten
Xuechen Li
Hyun-Suk Lim
Lei Liu
Morten Meldal
Oleg Melnyk
Anaïs Noisier
Benjamí Oller-Salvia
Monika Raj
Sylwia Rodziewicz-Motowidło
Helena Safavi
Ali Tavassoli
Meritxell Teixido
Dirk Trauner
Olalla Vázquez
Louise Walport
Dek Woolfson

Plenary lectures were given by:

Richard Payne (University of Sydney)

Hiroaki Suga (University of Tokyo)

Tom Muir (Princeton University)

David Baker (University of Washington)

Jens Juul Holst (University of Copenhagen)

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AAPPTec delivers **complete peptide synthesis solutions—from chemistry and instrumentation to custom peptide production**. With decades of peptide expertise, we support pharmaceutical, biotechnology, academic, and peptide manufacturing laboratories worldwide.

Our portfolio combines **automated peptide synthesizers, amino acids, resins, reagents, custom peptides, and scale-up equipment**, giving customers a single partner for peptide development from discovery through production.

From high-throughput research to larger-scale synthesis, AAPPTec provides the **equipment, chemistry, applications expertise, and technical support** needed to improve productivity, accelerate development, and simplify peptide workflows.

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Agilent, a global leader in analytical laboratory technologies, provides trusted answers that help our customers solve their most ambitious scientific challenges, increase laboratory performance, and advance quality of life. Our solutions for pharma and biopharma—from research and drug discovery, to development, manufacturing, and quality control—help to optimize pharma small molecule and biotherapeutic characterization methods, to get products to market faster.

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Bachem

Bachem is a leading, innovation-driven company specializing in the development and manufacture of peptides and oligonucleotides.

The company, which has over 50 years of experience and expertise, provides products for research, clinical development, and commercial application to pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies worldwide and offers a comprehensive range of services.

Bachem operates internationally with headquarters in Switzerland and locations in Europe and the US.

BioDuro

BioDuro, an Advent International portfolio company, is a global CRDMO with 30 years of experience supporting biotech and pharmaceutical innovators. With 2,000+ scientists across 8 global sites, we provide integrated peptide discovery and development services spanning chemistry, biology, DMPK and CMC. Our peptide capabilities include AI-enabled design, Peptide DEL, Direct-to-Biology, and oral peptide development, supporting programs from early discovery through development and scale-up. Our integrated approach brings scientific disciplines together to address key challenges in peptide design, optimization, bioavailability and developability. With broad capabilities and flexible, tailored programs, BioDuro helps partners accelerate development, reduce risk and advance promising peptide therapeutics toward the clinic.

Biotage

Biotage is a global supplier and solutions partner to a wide range of customers within drug discovery and development and analytical testing. With strong expertise in separation and purification technologies, and a focus on leveraging intelligent workflow solutions, we aim to efficiently support the advancement and protection of human health. Learn more at www.biotage.com

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C.A.T.

We offer chromatographic analyses as a service to our customers, specializing in the analyses of peptides, amino acid derivatives and other chiral substances. We are inspected by FDA as well as German Authorities.

We offer:

→ Reliable determination of enantiomeric purity via GC-MS using deuterated reagents and amino acid analysis.
→ Peptide sequencing and determination of the monoisotopic masses of peptides by high resolution mass spectrometry.
→ Determination of water content, solvent residues (OVI analysis) and counter ions with minimal sample consumption.
→ All methods are generically validated. Validation reports can be issued for specific substances.
→ Fulfillment of the FMP requirements has always been of prime concern in our company.

CEM

CEM Corporation is a global leader in peptide synthesis technology, providing innovative solutions for research, discovery, and peptide production. From automated microwave peptide synthesis to high-throughput and parallel platforms, CEM systems are designed to accelerate workflows, improve peptide quality, and simplify complex synthesis. CEM also supports manufacturing-scale peptide synthesis with the Liberty PRO, enabling efficient scale-up from development to production. Trusted by leading academic, pharmaceutical, biotechnology, and CRO laboratories worldwide, CEM continues to advance peptide science through intelligent instrumentation, innovative chemistry, and dedicated application support.

CSBio

CSBio is a leading manufacturer of fully automated peptide and oligonucleotide synthesizers, proudly serving the life sciences industry for over 30 years. Our systems have been refined into the flexible, reliable, and cost-effective solutions trusted by researchers and manufacturers worldwide. From research scale to commercial-scale production, CSBio synthesizers are used in top universities, biotech, and pharmaceutical labs across the globe. Today, CSBio is the world's leading provider of pilot and commercial-scale peptide synthesizers, with more systems in operation than any other manufacturer.

Gyros Protein Technologies

Gyros Protein Technologies has built instruments for automated peptide synthesis since 1985, when it began in Tucson, Arizona.
The PurePep® portfolio runs from method development to clinical material: PurePep® Chorus for modular R&D synthesis, Symphony® X for parallel synthesis with per-channel protocol control, PurePep® Sonata®+ for pilot scale to 200 mmol, and PurePep® EasyClean (PEC™) for purification where HPLC reaches its limits.
Progress depends on synthesis you can trust.
Find us in The Forum, our room on the first floor: a session each day Monday to Wednesday, forty years of the PurePep story, and good coffee. #forpeptidescientists
Gyros Protein Technologies is part of the Biopharmaceutical Development Division of Mesa Laboratories, Inc. (Nasdaq: MLAB).

Iris Biotech

Iris Biotech is providing high quality products for the fields peptide synthesis, linkerology®, drug delivery, and life sciences in flexible quantities from research scale to commercial production, for academia as well as industry.
Besides our broad portfolio from standard to exotic, we have the know-how and facilities to manufacture your compound of choice based on a Custom Synthesis.
We are in continuous exchange with scientists all around the world to gather ideas and be ahead regarding technologies and innovations true to our slogan Empowering Peptide Innovation.
All our services are rounded off by a strong and competent personnel customer support.

JPT

For more than 20 years, JPT Peptide Technologies has supported peptide research from discovery to clinical research with high-quality custom solutions manufactured in Berlin under an ISO 9001:2015-certified quality management system. Our expertise spans linear, cyclic, stapled and highly modified peptides, peptide libraries, conjugation-ready and site-specifically functionalized peptides, as well as light and heavy labelled standards. From hit discovery, macrocycle and peptide-drug conjugate development to screening, bioanalysis and preclinical studies, JPT combines flexible synthesis, advanced modifications and application-focused support. Meet us at EPS 2026 in Vienna to discuss your next peptide challenge.

PharmaBlock

Empowering next-generation therapies with green and intelligent chemistry

PharmaBlock was officially operated in 2008 as a provider of drug-like small molecule building blocks and has since evolved into a fully integrated CRDMO partner following its IPO in 2017 (Stock Code: 300725.SZSE). Today, the company offers end-to-end solutions spanning from early-stage discovery to commercial manufacturing, with expanding capabilities in emerging modalities such as oligonucleotides, peptides, and complex conjugates. PharmaBlock's strategy is anchored in advancing sustainability through innovation in green and intelligent chemistry to empower next-generation therapies. In discovery, the company has advanced its building blocks into "PharmaChips" for next generation therapies including novel and high-purity short peptides, amidites and conjugate linkers. Leveraging three distinctive libraries: a DNA-encoded library, a fragment library, and an ultra-large, synthetically accessible virtual library and AI technologies, it enables customers to accelerate hit discovery and lead optimization.
In development, drawing on extensive experience in the production of thousands of building blocks, PharmaBlock has built a strong green and intelligent technology platform for both development and manufacturing. This platform includes flow chemistry, process modeling, computational fluid dynamics (CFD), bio-/metal catalysis, high-throughput experimentation (HTE), process analytical technology (PAT), and digitalization, as well as advanced capabilities in Liquid Phase Peptide Synthesis (LPPS). These capabilities allow the company to address complex chemistry challenges, reduce development risks, and minimize environmental impact.
Committed to green and intelligent chemistry, PharmaBlock combines speed with sustainability. Its global "region-for-region" model ensures fast turnaround, reliable supply, and consistent quality for partners worldwide.

PolyPeptide

PolyPeptide Group is a specialized Contract Development & Manufacturing Organization (CDMO) for peptide-based active pharmaceutical ingredients. By supporting its customers mainly in pharma and biotech, it contributes to the health of millions of patients across the world. PolyPeptide serves a fast-growing market, offering products and services from pre-clinical through to commercial stages. Its broad portfolio reflects the opportunities in drug therapies across areas and with a large exposure to metabolic diseases, including GLP-1. Dating back to 1952, PolyPeptide today runs a global network of six GMP-certified facilities in Europe, the U.S. and India. PolyPeptide's shares (SIX: PPGN) are listed on SIX Swiss Exchange.

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WuXi TIDES, part of WuXi AppTec, Inc., is an industry-leading, integrated pharmaceutical technology and capability platform, serving the life sciences industry with operations across North America, Europe, and Asia. As an innovative Contract Research, Development and Manufacturing Organization (CRDMO), we provide efficient, flexible, high-quality solutions for our partners worldwide – from discovery to development and commercial supply for oligonucleotides, peptides, and related conjugates.
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Zealand Pharma

Zealand Pharma is a biotechnology company focused on advancing medicines for obesity and metabolic health. Combining more than 25 years of peptide R&D expertise with a proprietary data platform that leverages advanced data-driven and AI/ML approaches, Zealand Pharma aims to lead a new era in obesity and metabolic health. To date, more than ten Zealand Pharma-invented drug candidates have entered clinical development, of which two products have reached the market and three candidates are in late-stage development. The Company has collaborations with global pharmaceutical and biotechnology partners for research, development, and commercialization. Founded in 1998, Zealand Pharma is headquartered in Denmark, with a U.S. presence in Massachusetts. Learn more at www.zealandpharma.com.