



Shortly after joining Hoechst Pharmaceuticals (1979) as a new bioanalyst (after a PostDoc at UCL). I attended two meetings at the University of Surrey that changed my scientific life. One was Eric Reid's Bioanalytical Forum, where the topic was drug metabolite isolation and identification, and the other, the DMDG Open meeting. It was packed with friendly, knowledgeable and enthusiastic practitioners of the science (and it helped that they also seemed to know how to enjoy themselves). The meetings were perfectly sized as well (not too big, not too small, just right). From that moment DMPK had me hooked and I cannot overstate the influence that the DMDG had on my development as a scientist. The training courses were just beginning to be developed (the Basic Training Course had just begun), and were then, as now, brilliant (I learned as much from the other lecturers on the Basic Course when teaching bioanalysis, as the delegates). I had found in the DMDG a scientific home that would be a source of ideas, inspiration and friendship for the last 40 years. In that time the DMDG has not stood still, it has evolved to stay relevant and take account the changing landscape of DMPK, but I also know that, if joining as a young and inexperienced newcomer to DMPK tomorrow I would find the same core values as I did 40 years ago. Being awarded the Fellowship of the DMDG was amazing, humbling, and quite unexpected (so many much better candidates!), but not something I will ever forget.

*~ Ian Wilson*