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Dear all

Last week I had the opportunity to meet with many of the other Chapter presidents at the PDA Annual Meeting in Las Vegas. It was very interesting to hear from the colleagues about their activities and challenges. Our model of having smaller events in different locations, preferably on a company site rather than in a hotel, received much interest. Past events (at AstraZeneca, Ipsen Biopharm and Piramal Healthcare) proved that our concept works for our UK members. More on the upcoming events later.

Not unexpectedly, almost 90% of attendees at the Annual Meeting were from the US. The presentations were stimulating and often challenging industry's approach to compliance, whilst the Interest Group gatherings offered a great opportunity to get involved in hot topics. As always a great deal of networking was going on.

PDA is completely revamping its web presence, which will also affect our UK Chapter website, which can still be found at <http://pdachapters.org/unitedkingdom>. Here you can also find details for the UK Chapter board, including contact numbers, this newsletter and much more. Once we know more about the changes we will let you know.

UK Chapter activities

There will be two more events in 2009, the first of which will be at [Alcon Laboratories, Hemel Hempstead, on Thursday 21 May](#). You should have received the programme and registration details for this event by email. We will cover two interesting topics, 'Labelling and Readability' and 'Rapid Microbiological Methods'. Just in case, I have attached the invitation to this newsletter.

- Our hosts and their sites put in a lot of effort to make these events successful and I would like to encourage you and your colleagues (also non-members) to come along, to participate and enjoy. If you have a suggestion for a location, or would like to help with one of these events, please let me know.

The second event will be held at [BioCity in Nottingham on Thursday 10 September](#). Please mark this in calendar and watch out for updates either on our website, the PDA Connector or via email.

On behalf of all the board members I wish you a fun-filled Bank holiday weekend and I hope to see you in Hemel Hempstead and in Nottingham

With best regards

Dr Siegfried Schmitt
MRSC CChem CSci
President PDA UK Chapter