

## INTERVIEW WITH SCIENTIFIC LIAISON, GYORGY VAS, FROM INTERTEK PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES IN WHITEHOUSE, NJ

**INTERVIEWER:** Hello, my name is Ed Purell. I'm Director of Business Development for Intertek Pharmaceutical Services. We're a laboratory in Whitehouse, NJ. We are an FDA and DEA registered cGMP compliant analytical laboratory specializing in complex and routine services to support the development of drug products, formulations, devices and drug delivery systems for pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies.

We'd like to get to know some of the people on our scientific team who help to make it all happen.

Today I'll be interviewing Dr. Gyorgy Vas. Gyorgy is our Scientific Liaison an access to the bridge between the laboratory, operations, business development and customer service.

Gyorgy, as a Scientific Liaison, what are some of the main responsibilities and how do you help your customers tackle the issues they face?

**GYORGY VAS:** My major responsibility is advising clients. What would be their best strategy to deal with the regulatory agencies and how to address special chemical problems. Our laboratory specializes in handling problems at trace level. Trace level means parts per billion or even sub parts per billion. And any questions the client has from the regulators, I try to address and I try to recommend the best strategy to successfully deal with those regulatory issues.

**INTERVIEWER:** We offer a broad portfolio pharmaceutical, biotechnology and medical device testing the industries. What type of studies do you conduct to support the teams at Intertek and your clients?

**GYORGY VAS:** Our major, 70% or 80% of work business, is related to extractable leachable testing and biocompatibility testing. These days lots of deficiency letters are being issued by the regulatory agencies related to that field. And it's pharmaceutical packaging, medical device, medical device packaging and everything which is related to that area. We also have special knowledge, special instrumentation to help clients with special investigations. Which means if they have a problem, or they have a recall, we try to advise them how to handle those situations.

**INTERVIEWER:** Great, thanks Gyorgy. Since you specialize in trace organic testing with a focus in GC-MS for over 28 years, how have you seen the field change since the start of your career?

**GYORGY VAS:** Wow, that's an interesting question because there was a lot of significant improvement. From when I started my scientific career, the top-of-the-line system was magnetic sector instruments which occupied a huge room and the calibration procedure was so difficult. These days you can have much better performance out of a benchtop instrumentation, and I have been following those discoveries or putting new instrumentation to the market from the unit resolution benchtop instrumentation to an Orbitrap or top based instrumentation, and I've been blessed to work with all

those systems. Another area which changed significantly is the online or advanced sample preparation. When I started my career, everything was manual. Now most tasks can be done by robotic systems.

**INTERVIEWER:** Great. Gyorgy, you mentioned a little bit about when you started out in your scientific career, I'm curious what sparked your interest that led to you dedicating your career in chemistry and trace organic testing?

**GYORGY VAS:** Well, when I finished my master thesis. It was related to environmental chemistry and that was kind of special. But what really makes me spend my time and spend even my free time to learn more about chemistry and more about analytical chemistry, was my first job when I became head of laboratory for a wine testing facility. And that was also interesting. Wine is a very interesting substance, very interesting food and I continued my study. I have a PhD in wine chemistry and learned how to use mass spectrometry to help analyses of wines, which is kind of a unique field. And these days I also do research on my own to analyze different interesting substances.

**INTERVIEWER:** Thank you. One last question based on that and based on your experience, what type of advice would you have for somebody who wants to follow in your footsteps?

**GYORGY VAS:** Learn, read books and be open-minded. Science is a wonderful thing. Wonderful thing to do and experience. Don't be discouraged if the first experiment is not resulting in what you are looking for. There are always ups and downs and still you can learn a lot even when you have failed experiments. And science is good because you never know what will be the true outcome of a study.

**INTERVIEWER:** Great. Gyorgy, thank you very much for your interview today and sharing some of your insight about your career, analytical chemistry and providing some advice for people who are interested in studying chemistry.

**GYORGY VAS:** Thank you. Anytime. It was nice to talk to you.

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