

Practical HPLC Method Development. Edited by L. R. Snyder, J. L. Glajch and J. J. Kirkland, John Wiley & Sons, Chichester, 1990. xvi + 260 pp. ISBN 0-471-62782-8. Price: £48.30.

High performance liquid chromatography has been a very rapidly growing technique since its debut in 1965. The discovery of the HPLC technique provided a great advancement in this area due to its high power of separation, high speed, sensitivity and detectability, therefore, it is considered one of the most important methods in use today. This successful use of liquid chromatography has stimulated some researchers to improve even further this methodology for the separation of molecules.

The use of smaller stationery phase particles (5 and 10 micron) has resulted in an increase in efficiency compared with classical liquid chromatography. The capability of HPLC to separate typical compounds, such as: macromolecules and ionic species of medical and biomedical interest, labile natural products and thermolabile compounds or explosives is being proved time and time again in increasingly wider contexts.

'Practical HPLC Method Development' offers a practical scheme for developing effective HPLC separations. Other chapters cover the basics of separation processes, the role of the column, the best conditions to get a good separation, and some tools based on the use of the computer in HPLC method development. Finally, it gives in 'recipe' form some specific steps for developing reversed-phase, normal-phase and ion-pair HPLC columns.

This book covers the subject well and it is suitable for all chemists, biochemists, chemical engineers, pharmacologists, biotechnologists, researchers and students in the chromatography field.

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Biosensors: Applications in Medicine, Environmental Protection and Process Control. Edited by R. D. Schmid and F. Scheller, VCH Weinheim, 1989. xviii + 428 pp. ISBN 3-527-28032-4. Price: DM128.00, £45.95.

The concept of biosensors — using the specificity of biological reactions to facilitate measurement of specific compounds, reduces the problems