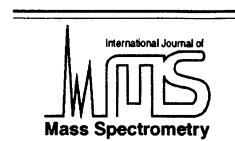




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## Preface

For more than 25 years, Nico Nibbering has played a major role in international mass spectrometry. During this period, he has published nearly 400 articles on many different aspects of the subject ranging from studies of the structures and fragmentation mechanisms of organic ions to accounts of new techniques and instrumental methods. He has lectured in almost all the major countries in which mass spectrometry is pursued, frequently as a plenary lecturer. Through his efforts and inspiration, he built up a first class research group in Amsterdam making it one of the world's leading centres in physical organic mass spectrometry and instrumental development. He is a natural teacher and many students of the subject have benefitted from his enthusiastic presentations during a series of NATO Advanced Study Institutes at which he has both lectured and helped organize. He has always found time to clarify points with individual students over a cup of coffee (or a glass of something stronger) as the many table napkins and beer mats covered in bent arrows and fish-hooks testify. If you wanted a plausible mechanism to explain a fragmentation reaction, you could always rely on Nico to provide one! Many of his mass spectrometry colleagues, both in academia and industry throughout the world, have been grateful for his strong support in many different ways.

In his home country, the Netherlands, he has played a pivotal role in putting mass spectrometry on the map. He was very active in promoting the founding of the Dutch Society for Mass Spectrometry (NVMS), and was an energetic chairman of this society during the 1970s. As a PhD supervisor of a large number of young students, he has passed on his great enthusiasm for mass spectrometry, so much so that many of them still work in the field. Indeed, we believe that his enthusiasm for mass spectrometry is

surpassed only by his passion for vintage motorcycles!

His many contributions to mass spectrometry have been recognized in a number of ways. He was awarded the Thomson Medal of the International Mass Spectrometry Committee in 1991 and he is a member of the Dutch Royal Academy of Sciences (KNAW). He has served both as Chairman and President of the European Society for Mass Spectrometry and last year, after a period as Vice-President, he was elected to the presidency of the International Mass Spectrometry Society. He has also been a member of many editorial boards of mass spectrometry journals, serving as editor of the *Journal of Mass Spectrometry* over the period 1995–2000 and as joint editor of "Mass Spectrometry Reviews" since 1991. He has also helped organize many successful meetings, most notably the 12<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Mass Spectrometry in Amsterdam in 1991 when he chaired the organizing committee.

We have very much enjoyed acting as Guest Editors for these volumes which celebrate Nico's retirement and his many contributions to the subject throughout his academic career. What was so gratifying was the readiness with which colleagues from all over the world agreed to provide manuscripts and the large number of articles contained in these volumes are, we hope, a fitting tribute to Nico. But it is not only for Nico's scientific contributions that we wish to honour him. He has been, not only to us but to so many mass spectrometrists, a true friend in whose company one can delight. We look forward to his friendship for many years to come and we wish him a long, happy and fulfilling retirement.

**Michael Gross**  
**Albert Heck**  
**Keith Jennings**