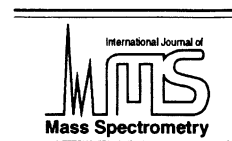




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Introduction

This journal has an established tradition in honoring members of our scientific community who have made exceptional contributions to the field by dedicating a special issue of the journal to the scientist. These special issues ordinarily coincide with a significant event or milestone. The happiest occasion is when the special issue marks a celebration. This special issue marks the celebration of the 60th birthday of R. Graham Cooks. Graham himself, of course, needs no introduction to the readership of this journal. Over the past three decades he has consistently been among the few most widely renowned mass spectrometrists in the world. His contributions to our discipline are manifold both as a scientist and as a citizen. Indeed, it is difficult to summarize, in a meaningful way, the scope of his contributions both to the science itself and to its practitioners. I will therefore not attempt to make such a summary. Rather, I refer the reader to the Curriculum Vitae included in this issue, which speaks for itself, and to the Foreword written by another longstanding world leader in mass spectrometry, Keith Jennings.

Those of you who know Graham will not be surprised to learn that he was not enthusiastic about the idea of a special issue dedicated to him. One of his reservations, I believe, was the considerable risk of excluding individuals who might want to contribute to such an issue. In fact, given the sheer number of Graham's students, former students, collaborators, and scientific friends, it would be almost impossible to be fully inclusive. Therefore, I proposed to him that he suggest particular subject areas of interest to him throughout his scientific career and that I would find a limited number of individuals to make contributions to reflect these areas. With some cajoling on the part of myself and the other editors of the *International*

Journal of Mass Spectrometry, he finally acquiesced. This issue, therefore, represents my attempt to draw contributions that reflect Graham's scientific breadth. The papers herein are roughly categorized along the lines of Graham's longstanding interests, with some papers clearly belonging in two or more categories. In keeping with Graham's penchant for the unconventional, the reader will find this issue to be a very diverse collection of writings. Many papers describe current research progress whereas others are historical or, perhaps, even a bit philosophical in nature. In putting these papers together, I was guided by Graham's suggestions and constrained by the practicalities of finding suitable authors prepared to contribute on the time-frame of this project. The result is, I hope, at least a rough approximation of Graham's interests and one that he finds pleasing. For those of you who might have wanted to contribute but were not contacted, please accept my apologies. The blame for all exclusions rests with me, not Graham.

This celebration is a particularly happy one because it comes at a time when the current level of Graham's ongoing contribution to mass spectrometry has never been greater. This, of course, is wonderful for the rest of us because, as we pause for a moment to express our appreciation and congratulations, we can expect that the best is yet to come! On behalf of your students and former students, your colleagues at Purdue, your collaborators, the editors of the *International Journal of Mass Spectrometry*, and the rest of the mass spectrometry community, Happy Birthday, Graham!

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