

Preface

Research on the use of particulate systems for advanced drug delivery is an important discipline of the pharmaceutical sciences field, being performed in many academic and industrial laboratories all around the world. Based on an initiative taken by Prof R.H. Müller (Dept. of Pharmaceutics, Free University of Berlin) and Prof G. Storm (Dept. of Pharmaceutics, Utrecht University), the 1st European Workshop on Particulate Systems (EWPS) was organised in Berlin in March 1997 (organised by Prof R.H. Müller and Dr J.E. Diederichs, Dept. of Pharmaceutics, Free University of Berlin). The 2nd EWPS meeting was held in Paris, 1998 (organised by Prof P. Couvreur and Dr E. Fattal, Dept. of Pharmaceutics, University of Paris-Sud XI). The aims of the EWPS are to stimulate joint research efforts, promote scientific exchange, and to co-ordinate research activities in Europe.

The 3rd EWPS meeting was organised April 27–29, 2000 in Utrecht, The Netherlands by Prof G. Storm and Dr C. Oussoren (Dept. of Pharmaceutics, Utrecht University). Members of the following European academic research groups participated in this meeting to present their current research strategies and activities:

University of Berlin: leader Prof R.H. Müller
Royal Danish School of Pharmacy in Copenhagen: leader Prof S. Frokjaer
University of Geneva: leader Dr E. Allémann
University of London: leader Prof A.T. Florence
University of Paris: leaders Prof P. Couvreur and Dr E. Fattal

Utrecht University: leaders Prof D.J.A. Crommelin/Prof W.E. Hennink/Prof G. Storm

The present volume of the *Int. J. Pharmaceutics* contains abstracts of lectures presented by members of the various research groups at this meeting. The 4th EWPS meeting is planned to take place in 2002 in Copenhagen (organisers Prof S. Frokjaer and Dr C. Vermehren, The Royal Danish School of Pharmacy, Department of Pharmacy).

C. Oussoren
G. Storm

*Utrecht Inst. Pharm. Sci.-UIPS,
Department of Pharmaceutics,
PO Box 80.082,
3508 TB Utrecht,
The Netherlands*