



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 (Department of Pharmaceutics, Free University of Berlin) and Prof. G. Storm (Department 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, Department of Pharmaceutics, Free University of Berlin). The 2nd EWPS meeting was held in Paris, 1998 (organised by Prof. P. Couvreur and Dr. E. Fattal, Department of Pharmaceutics, University of Paris-Sud XI). The 3rd EWPS meeting was organised 27–29 April, 2000 in Utrecht, The Netherlands by Prof. G. Storm and Dr. C. Oussoren (Department of Pharmaceutics, Utrecht University). The aims of the EWPS meetings are to stimulate joint research efforts, to promote scientific exchange, and to co-ordinate research activities in Europe within the area of particulate systems for drug delivery.

The 4th EWPS meeting was organised 30 May–1 June, 2002 in Copenhagen, Denmark by Prof. S. Frokjaer, Dr. C. Vermehren and L. Jørgensen, M.Sc. (Pharm.) (Department of Pharmaceutics, The Royal Danish School of Pharmacy). Members of the

following European academic research groups participated in this meeting to present their current research strategies and activities:

University of Berlin: leaders Prof. R.H. Müller/ Dr. O. Kayser.

University of Geneva: leader Prof. R. Gurny.

University of London: leader Prof. A.T. Florence.

University of Paris: leaders Prof. P. Couvreur and Prof. E. Fattal.

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

The Royal Danish School of Pharmacy in Copenhagen: leader Prof. S. Frokjaer.

The present volume of the *International Journal of Pharmaceutics* contains versions of lectures presented by members of the various research groups at this meeting. The 5th EWPS meeting is planned to take place in 2004 in London (organiser: Prof. A.T. Florence, School of Pharmacy, University of London).

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