



## Editorial

# Introductory remarks

The contribution of developments in technology and scientific research to the demand for new drug delivery systems cannot be overlooked considering the historical progress of drug therapy in healthcare. In the light of this historical progress, it is impossible not to appreciate the way human intelligence and creativity has oriented, utilized, and benefited from technology and scientific advances having seen and lived through the hard-to-believe advances. The title of 11th International Pharmaceutical Technology Symposium (IPTS) held in 2002—Intelligent Drug Delivery Systems is therefore appropriate.

The purpose of the symposium was to contribute to the understanding of the unknown and to enlighten the way for new research work. For this issue, some of the lectures presented are published. Invited lectures, on one hand, pointed out that biopolymers allowing the oral administration of proteins may be used as intelligent material in *in vitro*, cellular, and *in vivo* studies and on the other hand, brought up the issue of magnetic drug delivery with an intelligent approach to deliver some drugs to target organs. This year's IPTS invited lectures have shown that enhanced permeability and retention, mechanism of receptor mediated endocytosis, polymeric anticancer drugs with pH controlled activation, lysosomotropic macromolecular inhibitors of cathepsin K, water soluble pH-sensitive nanocarriers, polymeric micelles immunomicelles, and gene therapy will be of importance in the preparation of tomorrow's medical products. The meeting demonstrated that within the next 20 years, vast developments are foreseen for dosage forms used in

drug therapy and drugs will be of a much different form in order to augment quality of life.

Another important feature was that this orientation emphasized by the invited lecturers was supported by more than 100 scientific poster presentations. The fact that a great majority of the IPTS-2002 poster presentations fell within the fields mentioned by the invited lecturers gives out the message that Intelligent Drug Delivery Systems will continue to be the subject of intelligent approaches for better and safer drug therapy. Scientific research in this field holds out the hope that maladies may be overcome rapidly with intelligent approaches, good planned, and self-sacrificing scientific researches. The lectures deserved a wider audience that the *International Journal of Pharmaceutics* could supply.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the IPTS Scientific Board for their contribution to the determination of such a theme that opens new horizons for drug therapy in human health, to the IPTS Organizing Committee and to Prof. A.T. Florence, Editor-in-Chief, the *International Journal of Pharmaceutics*, and to Elsevier for giving the opportunity to present highlights of this symposium as a special issue.

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