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Journal of Chromatography A, 760 (1997) 1-2

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JOURNAL OF  
CHROMATOGRAPHY A

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## Foreword

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The yearly Symposium on Preparative Chromatography took place 19-21 May 1996 at the Georgetown University Conference Center, in Washington, DC, USA. As with our previous meetings, PREP'96 was attended by nearly 300 participants. Because of the success of its predecessors, PREP'94 and PREP'95, the same organization was adopted. PREP'96 had the traditional features of a scientific meeting. Forty two oral communications were presented and 35 poster contributions were exhibited and discussed. In addition, an exhibition of the equipment, material, and products used in preparative chromatography was organized to offer the participant an opportunity to become more familiar with recent developments in this area. Two symposium workshops, four manufacturer's seminars and three roundtable discussions were organized on the Sunday before the opening of the meeting, during the lunches and the afternoon pauses. The format of these workshops, seminars and discussions was conducive to intense exchanges of ideas. The topics selected emphasized practical and concrete considerations, thus complementing the more fundamental aspect of the classical part of the program.

Preparative chromatography is a complex process at all levels, from its principles to method development, implementation, end equipment design. The optimization of its parameters is a multiparameter, nonlinear problem that is still incompletely mastered. Besides, the successful development of a new application requires the understanding of many physico-chemical phenomena. A comprehensive knowledge of the state of the art in materials, equipment, and products, especially stationary phases, is necessary. An exhibit with ample opportunity for contact with manufacturers and suppliers complements well a

scientific meeting. With process chromatography having been practised in industry for more than ten years, many can now use successfully the concepts of tag-along and displacement effects to increase production rate. However, our level of understanding is deepening. The rapid development of fast computers is permitting the use of general programs for the optimization of the experimental conditions of a new separation. The advent of the simulated moving bed unit will make modeling by computer a necessity. Only a rich scientific program permits the clarification of the issues and variables necessary to utilize a modern technology. The quality of the presentations made at PREP'96 demonstrates the vigor of the research effort occurring in both academy and industry as well as the importance of the separation problems encountered in various applications.

The help of Dr. Firoz Antia (Merck and Co.), Dr. John Frenz (Genentech), Dr. Jana Jacobson (Lygramura), Dr. Anita Katti (Mallinckrodt Chemical, Inc.), Mr. Klaus Lohse (BTR Separations), Dr. Joan Newburger (R.W. Johnson Pharmaceutical Research Institute), and Dr. Linda N.-H. Wang (Purdue University), the members of the organization committee of PREP'96, in the review of the abstracts submitted, and in the organization of the program was greatly appreciated. The sponsorship of the Washington Chromatography Discussion Group is gratefully acknowledged, as well as the support extended by Prochrom and TechniKrom for the organization of the social program. It is a pleasure to thank Mrs. Janet Cunningham, Symposium Manager, whose organizational skills allowed its successful operation. The present volume of the Journal of Chromatography includes the papers submitted during the symposium. These papers represent the nature and

intensity of the research carried out in preparative chromatography. We hope that this volume will prove useful to those involved in this field. We are grateful to the Editor of the Symposium Volumes and to the editorial staff of the Journal of Chromatog-

raphy for their professionalism and dedication in producing this volume.

*Knoxville, TN, USA*

**Georges Guiochon**