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Foreword

The 25th Meeting of the Spanish Chromatography Group (GCTA) of the Royal Society of Chemistry was held in Barcelona, 22–25 October 1996. This year's scientific and social program was incorporated into that of the *8as Jornadas de Analisis Instrumental*, which are held every three years under the sponsorship of EXPOQUIMIA 96, thus bringing together the best of Analytical Chemistry in Spain from the point of view of both Academics and Industry. A total of 509 scientific communications were presented and eight invited speakers delivered plenary talks on different topics, from Electrochemistry to Mass spectrometry. The GCTA's list of invited speakers included Professors Milton L. Lee, Hans Poppe and Emilio Gelpí who delivered talks on New Directions on Microcolumn Separations, Speed and Efficiency of Modern Chromatographic Methods and New Mass Spectrometric Techniques in Biology and Biomedicine, respectively. Forty-seven selected

papers from the GCTA sessions, including two of the invited talks, are gathered in this special volume.

This special issue of the *Journal of Chromatography A* was preceded by issues dedicated to the meeting held in San Sebastian (1991), Granada (1992), Barcelona (1993) and Peniscola (1994). Publications from the Madrid meeting in 1995 were published in the Journal although not in a collective volume. In the present volume, general questions such as retention time repeatability in gas chromatography, high-speed solvating gas chromatography and chromatographic analysis of macromolecules are considered. Developments on new methods for the analysis of chlorinated hydrocarbons, fungicides, herbicides and pesticides as well as new procedures on water, air and food analysis are also included.

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