



ELSEVIER

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Foreword

As in all chemical separation methods, selectivity is an important parameter for achieving separation. Also important is the optimization of the separation conditions to achieve high plate counts, speed and resolution. Obviously, in any given separation process, no separation can take place in the absence of selectivity even if millions of theoretical plates are easily attained.

This thematic issue of the *Journal of Chromatography A* recognizes the importance of selectivity and optimization in maximizing separation in capillary electrophoresis by providing the reader with several review and research articles from experts in the field. The thematic issue is organized into six major parts, and in each part pertinent review articles are collected first followed by a number of original contributions. Part I is dedicated to "General reviews and free zone electrophoresis", Part II is concerned with "Micellar electrokinetic capillary chromatography" (MECC), Part III deals with "Chiral separations", Part IV assembles articles on "Cyclodextrin-MECC for chiral and achiral separation", Part V is allotted

to "Other electrokinetic processes", and Part VI is for "Separation of metal ions".

I am hoping that this special volume has treated many of the selectivity and optimization issues that address the needs of those who use capillary electrophoresis. This should facilitate the wide spread use of capillary electrophoresis as an important analytical separation tool for solving separation problems of practical importance in the life and other sciences.

Finally, and as a guest editor of this special issue, I wish to thank all contributors for their efforts in making the production of the special issue possible. Their expertise in the field of capillary electrophoresis is essential for making this issue a reference book for a broad audience. Also, I wish to thank the Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service, US Department of Agriculture for the financial support of my research program under Agreements No. 94-37102-0989 and No. 96-35201-3342.

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