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Foreword

The tenth anniversary of the International Ion Chromatography Symposium, (IICS'97), was held at the Santa Clara Westin hotel in California, September 14–17. Before the conference, the letterhead proclaimed: *The Best Ion Analysis Meeting, Ever!* With the highest number of attendees and total presentations ever in this series, this expectation was indeed realized. With 275 attendees from 26 countries, there were 65 podium presentations (in four plenary and four breakout sessions) and 113 poster presentations (in eight separate categories), the plate was indeed full. Outside lunches in the bright California sunshine with just enough cool breeze to keep one comfortable, a memorable dinner cruise in the San Francisco Bay, sponsored by Dionex Corporation, and a delightful conference dinner complemented a truly outstanding technical program.

A Welcome Reception was held on Sunday evening and only those with the heartiest of appetite felt a need to venture out for dinner afterwards. The technical sessions began bright and early on Monday morning. Professor Royce W. Murray, Editor of *Analytical Chemistry* and a member of the National Academy of Sciences, presented a broad perspective of where things are headed in our field and set the tone and the quality for the rest of the meeting. The IICS'97 outstanding achievement award went to Dr. Tetsuo Okada of Tokyo Institute of Technology. Dr. Phil Jones, the program chair of the previous year, provided an introduction to Dr. Okada's numerous accomplishments in ionic and liquid chromatography. In his award lecture, Dr. Okada provided a most interesting perspective on how novel separations, either in the ion-exchange or in the electrophoretic mode, can be performed in nonaqueous solvents and how such studies allow one to evaluate

the various interactions that govern such separation processes. Breakout sessions, after refreshments, involved Novel Stationary Phases and Formats in Ion Chromatography (IC) and Less Common Detection Methods in CE. Following lunch, there were sessions on General Applications of IC and a very well attended session on Ion Analysis in the Power Industry, most ably organized by Amy Ekechukwu. Although all posters were up on both Monday and Tuesday, on Monday afternoon, the presenters covered the following topics: Various CE Detection Methods, New Stationary Phases for IC, Sampling and Sample Preparation/Preconcentration Techniques, and Theory, Models, Statistical Design and Quality Control. The majority of the attendees showed up for the dinner cruise, and afterwards, little doubt was left that the talents of many of the participants extend into music as well!

Capillary electrochromatography (CEC) is regarded by many as the wave of the future, a development that some feel combines the best of both capillary electrophoresis and conventional chromatography. The conference was fortunate in having Professor Richard N. Zare, a pioneer in CEC, a member of the National Academy and Chairman of the National Science Board, to lecture, in his inimitable style, on the future of CEC Tuesday morning. Following this plenary session, there were breakout sessions on the Theory, Selectivity and Applications of IC, and Ion Analysis in the Semiconductor Industry, the latter session being most enthusiastically organized by Lynn Vanatta. After lunch under the trees, the podium sessions continued on Water Analysis and Sample Preparation, and General Topics related to CE. After refreshments, poster presenters covered Cation Chromatography, Fundamentals and

Applications of both IC and CE and various exotica related to IC. The conference dinner that evening was arranged in the Westin Hotel. It was highlighted not only by live entertainment but by recognition of those that have been faithful attendees of this symposium over the past several years. A vote of thanks was offered to Janet Strimaitis of Century International. Janet has managed the organizational details of this conference from its inception and even judged by her own exacting standards, outdid herself for this decennial anniversary of the symposium. For this program chair, it was a real privilege to be able to work with someone as organized and dedicated as Janet Strimaitis. Each year this symposium also has had the tradition of granting student travel awards, awarded to students from outside the country where the conference is being hosted and based on applications submitted describing the content of proposed poster/oral presentations. In 1997, these awards went to Maria Bruzzoniti from the University of Turin, Petr Kuban from Stockholm University and Anna Sjögren from the University of Umeå. A two-judge panel consisting of Professor John D. Lamb of Brigham Young University and Charles A. Lucy of the University of Calgary made the selection.

A single plenary session on Wednesday morning rounded out the excellent conference program. J. Michael Ramsey from Oak Ridge National Laboratory outlined the present and the future of microchip based analysis systems and demonstrated videomicroscopic images of how such separations can be accomplished very rapidly using extremely small volumes. Hamish Small, to many the father of IC, demonstrated next that there are still many gems left in the attics of his mind. Hamish spellbound the audience with his new invention, “Ion Reflux Chromatography” in which only water is pumped into the system, the eluent is electrically generated and suppressed in-situ, regenerating the eluent generator and the suppressor and making for, in principle, a perpetually usable system! After refreshments, Professor John Koropchak, who has contributed many different innovations in various areas of analytical chemistry made an alluring presentation of a nearly universal detector, a Condensation Nuclei

Light Scattering Detector that is applicable in both capillary scale and macroscale separations. Professor John Lamb, well known for his contributions to the analytical applications of macrocyclic compounds, described the world of IC next, in a macrocyclic perspective. The most difficult task was left undoubtedly for the last plenary speaker, Professor Charles A. Lucy, who valiantly took on the task to speak on “What are the Unanswered (and Unasked) Questions in Ion Analysis?”

At this meeting, for the first time, poster presentations were judged by popular vote from the attendees. This award went to Ms. Anna Sjögren for her poster presentation on a portable capillary ion chromatograph. The presentations of Kai Ling Ng, Simon Hardy, and Andreas Zemann were selected for honorable mention.

A scientific committee always provides guidance for a conference like this. The scientific committee overseeing the program of IICS'97 included: Wolfgang Buchberger, Johannes-Kepler-University; Richard M. Cassidy, University of Saskatchewan; Purnendu K. Dasgupta, Texas Tech University; James S. Fritz, Iowa State University; Paul R. Haddad, University of Tasmania; Phil Jones, University of Plymouth; Charles A. Lucy, University of Calgary; Kikuo Oikawa, Niigata College of Pharmacy; Chris Pohl, Dionex Corporation; Mou Shifen, Academia Sinica; and Hamish Small, HSR Inc. For 1998, Drs. Buchberger and Jones will be replaced by Becky Adams, Dow Chemical; Kazuhiko Tanaka, NIRIN, and Lynn Vanatta, Air Liquide. One looks forward to another excellent meeting in Osaka, Japan, under the new leadership.

The organization of a conference of this size always has its rewards but takes its toll on one as well. There is a saying about the proverbial Sweet “Laddu” of Delhi: Those that have never had it will repent. And those that have already had it have surely repented!

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*Lubbock, Texas
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