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Foreword

It is rather remarkable, as Robert Weinberg has noted, that DNA has emerged largely in “our generation”, and the earliest pioneers in this field are still alive. For example, the classic paper by Watson and Crick reporting the double helix structure of DNA was published in 1953, a mere 45 years ago. This is like living in the time of Newton in regard to the development of physics. As reflected in this volume and elsewhere, much has happened in a relatively short time in our understanding and control of nucleic acids.

Both chromatography and electrophoresis are important in nucleic acid separations. Let us hope that this issue of *Journal of Chromatography A*, by

covering both of these areas (and a little more), will give some perspective on the current status of what each area contributes, and also help to indicate future developments. Of course, the overall field is immense, and the contents of this volume must be combined with much other literature to give a complete picture.

I wish to thank the guest editors, Günther Bonn, Joe Gerstner and Peter Oefner, for their leadership and hard work in creating this timely thematic issue.

Boston, MA, USA

Roger Giese
Editor