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Journal of Chromatography A 817 (1998) 1

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JOURNAL OF  
CHROMATOGRAPHY A

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## Preface

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The *11th International Symposium on High Performance Capillary Electrophoresis and Related Microscale Techniques (HPCE '98)* was held in Orlando, FL, USA, 1–5 February 1998, in a stimulating atmosphere created by the excellent quality of scientific contributions and the entertaining diversions of Walt DisneyWorld, Universal Studios, Sea World, and many other attractions.

Before the meeting, four well-attended half-day workshops were run by leading scientists in the microfabrication of analytical instruments, time-of-flight mass spectrometry, capillary electrochromatography and hyphenated NMR techniques. There were also 1- and 2-day short courses on CE–MS and Practical CE, respectively. Late afternoon industrial seminars hosted by several exhibitors also drew large crowds during the meeting.

Approximately 700 people attended HPCE '98, where 114 oral lectures and 310 posters were presented. The scope of these presentations is illustrated by the papers that appear in this special issue of the *Journal of Chromatography A*. Plenary lectures at the opening and closing of the symposium covered several emerging fields of research, including the application of chip technology, hyphenated NMR techniques and mass spectrometry, to solving analytical problems in molecular biology. The scientific program, run in two parallel sessions, covered

all aspects of capillary electrophoresis, capillary electrochromatography, CE–MS, lab-on-a-chip technology and other microscale analytical techniques. We wish to note the outstanding session in memory of Prof. Dr. H. Michael Widmer, who recently passed away. Many of his former colleagues spoke in this session. In these and other presentations, much of the latest developments in microscale analysis were presented.

As at previous symposia, a large contingent of over 100 students added their youthful exuberance to the technical sessions and social events. CaSSS, Cesone and the HPCE conference helped provide travel grants for most of the student presenters. Our special thanks are due to Tom Gilbert and Shirley Schlessinger for their efforts in the preparation of the meeting and to Zdenek Deyl for his special editorial contribution to this publication.

Finally, we express our appreciation to all the delegates for their excellent scientific contributions and look forward to seeing them at HPCE '99 in Palm Springs. We also wish great success to the next chairman, Edward S. Yeung and symposium organizer, CaSSS.

S. Fanali  
B.L. Karger

HPCE '98 Co-Chairmen