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Preface

From 11–13 February 1998, the *5th International Symposium on Hyphenated Techniques in Chromatography and Hyphenated Chromatographic Analyzers (HTC-5)* was held at the Saint John's Conference Center in Bruges (Belgium). About 350 scientists, from 35 different countries from all over the world, proved that hyphenated chromatographic techniques have become one of the most popular areas of analytical chemistry. In this 5th HTC-meeting, as usual, academia, industry and government were well represented among both speakers and attendees.

The symposium was preceded by five short courses on: "Theory and practice of SPME and MESI" (J. Pawliszyn, P. Martos, T. Gorecki and Ph. Mussche); "Multiangle light scattering (MALS) combined with HPLC and other fractionation techniques" (Ph.J. Wyatt); "Pre- and post-column techniques in HPLC for improved analyte isolation, derivatization, cleanup, separation and detection" (I. Krull and H. Lingeman); "Flexible injection techniques for the 21st century" (M. Cooke and W.M.A. van Egmond); "Capillary electrochromatography — a new, high efficiency, liquid phase separation technique" (G. Ross and G. Rozing). These short courses took place at the Novotel-Centrum Hotel in Bruges (Belgium).

The HTC-5 Symposium was organized under the auspices of the Royal Flemish Chemical Society (KVCV). Valuable financial support was offered by the Fonds voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek – Vlaanderen (FWO) and by an important number of sponsoring companies. The organizing committee [K.D. Bartle, H.J. Cortes, R. Senten (Secretary), R. Smits (Chairman) and H. Van den Branden (Treasurer)] was aided by an advisory international sci-

entific committee consisting of F. Adams (Chairman), K. Bartle, U.A.Th. Brinkman, R. Cela, H.J. Cortes, C.A. Cramers, E. Esmans, M. Grasserbauer, K. Grob, J. Hoogmartens, I. Krull, D.L. Massart and J. Pawliszyn and a highly motivated executive committee consisting of D. De Molder, P. Dieltiens, E. Jooker, J. Perneel, R. Proost, S. Vangheluwe, R. Verstraeten and N. Zoete.

During the symposium, 46 lectures both in plenary and parallel sessions and about 100 poster contributions covered the most important fundamental aspects, instrumental developments and applications of the various hyphenated chromatographic techniques and hyphenated chromatographic analyzers.

During three tutorials, prominent scientists gave an overview of the basic principles, methods, developments and applications in the field of: "Solvent effects in capillary GC: retention of volatile components for splitless, PTV and on-column injection" (K. Grob); "Evaluation of capillary- and nano-HPLC coupled to electrospray mass spectrometry" (E. Esmans); "chemometric methods to extract information from chromatographic data sets" (D.L. Massart).

A new feature of the Symposium was a topical discussion, a lively round table debate, chaired by H. Cortes, on the miniaturization in chromatographic analysis (U.A.Th. Brinkman, A. Van den Berg, M.V. Novotny in the panel and a very interactive and enthusiastic audience).

A very inviting instrument, book and supplies exhibition, comprising an almost complete program of not less than 30 companies, created the ideal forum to assess the state-of-the-art of modern instrumentation. Furthermore, during three product seminars, sponsoring companies had the opportunity to

go into detail about their new achievements and developments.

An international jury under the chairmanship of F. Adams ensured that the most innovative paper or poster contribution of the conference could be acknowledged. During the closing session this HTC-Award, sponsored by Elsevier Science, was presented to Dr. S.N. Semenov, Professor at the Institute of Biochemical Physics (Moscow, Russia) for his 4 highly clear and innovative poster presentations in which he presented fundamentally interesting new ideas describing new looks on combining several separation approaches in one integrated process (see also the News section in this volume).

There also was a full social program, including a spouse's program, welcome and farewell parties, reception at the city hall of Bruges, guided visit to the Groeninge Museum followed by a cocktail party

in the cellars of the Holiday Inn (where the remains of the famous St. Donatian's Cathedral can be found) and an excellent banquet, complete with a lively and full evening entertaining show of a folkloristic troupe, in the beautiful historical surroundings of the Castle of Moerkerke near Bruges.

The articles published in this symposium volume give an overview of the state-of-the-art of modern hyphenated chromatographic techniques.

The organizers would like to thank the speakers and the participants for their engagement, and all sponsors for their support. The next HTC-Symposium (HTC-6) will again be held at the Saint John's Conference Center in Bruges (Belgium), from 9–11 February 2000.

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