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Foreword

It is with great pleasure that we present the proceedings of the *22nd International Symposium on Chromatography (ISC'98)* held in Rome on 13–18 September 1998. These volumes comprise all papers which were submitted and accepted after going through the regular peer-review process of *Journal of Chromatography A*.

Over 700 delegates came to Rome to participate in the scientific and social events of ISC'98. The Symposium was organised under the auspices of the Gruppo Italiano di Cromatografia (Divisione di Chimica Analitica, Società Chimica Italiana, I) and was part of the well known series conducted by the Association Française des Sciences Séparatives, AFSEP (F); Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker-Arbeitskreis Chromatographie der Fachgruppe Analytische Chemie (D); The Chromatographic Society (UK). At the meeting 96 lectures – including the Grand Lecture given by the Nobel Prize winner F.S. Rowland, five plenary lectures (Cs. Horvath, G. Guiochon, S. Terabe, A. Guarino, K.D. Bartle), and about 500 posters were presented. Young scientists were strongly encouraged, by a financial support, to present their achievements in special dedicated sessions. Thirty companies participated in the instrument and book exhibition, which was a most significant part of the event.

Organising a five day-international Symposium was a demanding task and we thank all the people who worked so hard for more than two years in order to assure that ISC'98 would meet the high quality of the ISC series.

The first reason for the recognised good outcome of ISC'98 is essentially due to the high quality of the scientific program and we thank all those who made presentations and the contributing authors as well as

our colleagues of the International Scientific Committee (M. Martin, P. Boček, M. Cooke, H. Engelhardt, W. Engewald, M.-C. Hennion, D. Misiti, Sz. Nyiredy, J.-L. Rocca, P. Sandra, D. Stevenson), who had the difficult task of selecting the contributed papers.

The Organising Committee expresses its thanks to the various organisations sponsoring the Symposium, especially the University of Rome “La Sapienza” which kindly hosted the Concert in the “Aula Magna”, the University of Ferrara where the Scientific Secretariat was headquartered, and the Italian National Research Council (CNR). We acknowledge all the companies that attended the exhibition and contributed to the financial balance of the Symposium. A very special thanks goes to all the members of the Organising Committee (M.A. Benincasa, M. Cristalli, G. Fiabane, P. Fiordiponti, A. Laganà, S. Trestianu, L. Zoccolillo) and the Scientific Secretariat (G. Blo, M.C. Pietrogrande, M. Remelli, L. Bani, C. Contado, D. Mencarelli, A. Cavazzini and D. Melucci) for the hard work done before, during and after the meeting.

The continuing success of the ISC Symposium Series proves that – besides specialised chromatographic meetings, devoted to a single technique or to a specific application field – there is need for a general meeting where all the Chromatography and the Related Separation Techniques such as electricaly driven separations, FFF techniques, preparative and SMB can be presented simultaneously. Only in this way can hot topics in Environmental, Pharmaceutical, Biological, Biomedical, Industrial and Food Sciences find their proper, optimal solution from advances in instrumental and column technologies, in theoretical developments and in hyphenated ap-

proaches. This fruitful synergism was proved once more by the impressive number of papers reporting new applications in many areas, especially in the life sciences.

One of the main goals of a meeting is to allow scientific exchange among the participants: the attendance at all podium presentations was always very high; the discussions at poster sessions always intense. We believe that new ideas, new cooperations, and new opportunities have grown out of this fruitful time and will lead to further achievements in separation science and technology. The unforgettable atmosphere at the Concert and during the visits to the Roman and Imperial Foro by night and to the Sistine Chapel will contribute to reinforce the human links among all the delegates, and we want to warmly thank them for their active participation.

All of us wish to pay a special tribute in memory of Fabrizio Bruner, who enthusiastically, generously started out on this venture with us but who passed away in July 1997.

The Italian Committee of ISC'98

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