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Foreword

The *11th International Ion Chromatography Symposium (IICS '98)* was held at the Sun Palace in Osaka, 28 September–1 October 1998. Until now, the IICS was held in America and Europe, but the 1998 meeting was held in Japan, for the first time in Asia. I believe that Japan was considered a suitable location for the symposium not only because ion chromatography is now widely used in Asia but also because the research and technology in that area is highly respected. IICS '98 turned out to be a big symposium, including 80 participants from 18 countries, 110 people from within Japan and 20 support staff members, making a total number in excess of 200.

In the evening, after participants had registered at the reception desk on 28 September, a welcoming party was held, where many renewed their friendship and new colleagues were welcomed with a toast. The Symposium officially started on the morning of 29 September. At the opening ceremony in the morning, Dr. H. Small, the IICS '98 recipient of the Ion Chromatography Achievement Award, gave a plenary address followed by three others invited to give plenary lectures. In the following three days, 47 papers dealing with ion chromatography and capillary electrophoresis were presented in oral sessions and 89 in poster sessions. The closing ceremony for IICS '98 was held on 1 October, after invitational lectures by three young researchers, with a resolution that the next meeting, IICS 2000, is to be held in 1999 at San Jose, California.

Dr. H. Small was an invitational lecturer at IICS '97 where he announced ion reflex chromatography, which won him the achievement award in 1998. It was considered to be a significant advance, due to change the concept of the conventional IC. The

award lecture was titled, 'New Concepts and Directions for Ion Chromatography.' P.K. Dasgupta, a professor at Texas Tech University, lectured on improvements of HPCL, IC, electrochromatography, and CE, following the introduction of capillary liquid chromatography, which was developed in Japan. Professor C. Sarzanini of the University of Turin, Italy, explained recent developments and examples of analysis of metallic ions by LC. Professor T. Yotsuyanagi of Tohoku University, Japan, described applications of the separation of metallic ions by LC and CE to super-pure water, environmental samples and pharmaceuticals.

The oral lectures took place at two meetings in the afternoons of 29 and 30 September. In that period researchers made many exciting announcements concerning new technology and applications of both IC and CE. The poster sessions took place over two hours in the afternoons of 29 and 30 September. Of the 89 papers 33 were from Japan. Among the poster presentations were applications to environmental analyses, to the semiconductor industry and to super-pure water.

The symposium dinner was held on 29 September, following the research announcements of the day. After the breaking open of a cask of Japanese sake, the party became suffused with a Japanese atmosphere. Japanese food was served, a Japanese dance was performed and the koto, a Japanese string instrument, was played. Friendships nurtured at a barbecue party on 30 September. It was held on top of Mt. Rokko, which offered a magnificent view of Kobe by night. After IICS '98 ended on 1 October, everyone enjoyed a bus tour of Kyoto, an ancient city of Japan.

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to

the Japanese government and Dionex Company for providing the funds that enabled us to hold IICS '98 and to the many researchers and companies and especially to Dr. Giichi Mutoh, the IC pioneer in Japan, for their enthusiastic support and cooperation.

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