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Foreword

HPLC '99 was held 30 May–4 June 1999 at the Granada Exhibition and Conference Center in the exciting city of Granada, capital of eastern Andalusia, the most visited monumental city in Spain. Considering the facts, this meeting became one of the milestones of this international meeting series that started in 1973 in Interlaken. A record high number of 450 abstracts were submitted by the first October 16, 1998 deadline and this number went up to a final total of 906 abstracts received and 866 accepted for the very rich scientific program.

In terms of statistics, the Scientific Program included 134 oral presentations and 732 posters from 48 different countries. The highest number of delegates came from Spain with 213, followed by the USA (152), Germany (108) and the UK (72). The 134 oral presentations that were actually delivered at the meeting were divided into 4 Plenary Talks, 6 Keynote Lectures scheduled in a special Session on 'Separations in the New Millennium' and 124 orals distributed in 17 oral sessions. The rest of the 732 scientific contributions were scheduled in well-attended poster sessions covering 18 different scientific topics representing the whole field of liquid phase separation sciences. There were a number of remarkable contributions on several of these topics and specifically on molecular imprinting of stationary phases, multi-dimensional techniques for sample preparation and instrumental coupling, miniaturized micro- and nano-systems and fast separations. A total of 154 of these scientific contributions are presented in these Proceedings volumes, covering theoretical and technical aspects, electromigration methods, chiral and isomeric separations and sorbent technology, as well as a good number of papers on

pharmaceutical, environmental, biological and food and beverage applications.

Six well-attended pre-Symposium training workshops were offered to complement the scientific and technical program of the meeting. There was a strong commercial participation with 16 vendor seminars being presented by 16 of the total of 48 firms attending their respective exhibitor's booths in the spectacular setting of the Exhibition Hall at the Exhibition and Conference Center, which is known as Granada's other great palace. This very modern building has been carefully designed to blend harmoniously with the architectural tradition of the city and complements the existing ambience. Indeed, in design and structure, the Center resembles one of the most remarkable examples of Spain's architecture: The Charles V Palace at the Alhambra, with its square outside facade, partly glass-covered and its inner amphitheater.

A highly motivating social program allowing delegates to sample the spirit of Granada's cultural crossroads supported the attractive scientific and technical program. We know that many participants went away with indelible memories of their stay in such an exciting historical place and its surroundings and I am sure that the visit to the Alhambra and the Symposium dinner on the grounds of an Andalusian hacienda will not be easily forgotten.

My sincere gratitude goes to all who made this successful meeting possible. We certainly tried hard!

Emilio Gelpí

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