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Foreword

ExTech 1999, a Symposium for Advances in Extraction Technologies, was held at the University of Waterloo, Canada, 26–30 April 1999. The symposium was organized by myself and the members of my research group. We were delighted to be able to host the first ExTech Symposium and we hope that this meeting contributes to a recognition of the unique challenges facing the development of new concepts in sample preparation and therefore enhance scientific credibility of this often-neglected part of the analytical process. The main objective is to provide an independent forum for exchange of knowledge and experience related to sample preparation.

The 1999 program covered both fundamentals and applications and featured an international list of speakers, on topics ranging from overviews of the current state of sample preparation and solid-phase techniques to reaction pathway monitoring, theoret-

ical modeling of extraction parameters, and presentations of novel extraction devices and techniques. Applications presented included surveying of flavour and fragrance molecules, water and wastewater analysis, semiochemicals and volatile biomolecules monitoring, and field analysis.

We hope the symposium continues to provide scientists a means to discover new and interesting ideas and applications, which can be used both to provide new advantages in their work and to further develop the field of extraction technology. To this end, ExTech will be hosted again in 2000 at the University of Waterloo. Future venues include Barcelona in 2001, Paris in 2002 and Tampa in 2003.

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