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## Foreword

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The 19<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on the Separation and Analysis of Proteins, Peptides, and Polynucleotides (ISPPP '99) was held in Delray Beach, FL, 31 October–3 November, 1999. The meeting was attended by delegates from 19 countries and was comprised of 12 different sessions, including 41 lecture presentations, 103 poster presentations, and 6 vendor seminars. Several students and featured speakers were awarded travel grants to attend the meeting. The funding for these grants was donated by Elsevier Science and the California Separation Science Society (CaSSS). Seed sponsorship money was provided by the Society for the Advancement of Separations Technology.

The three-day symposium is held annually to provide a forum for the transfer of scientific knowledge in the field of bioanalytical techniques for the separation and characterization of molecules of biological interest. The conference is organized to encourage interdisciplinary discourse on a diversity of topics. This symposium explored such state-of-the-art topics as Capillary Methods, Proteomics and Genomics, Biospecific Interactions, New Column Technology, Peptide Separations, and Preparative/Process Separations. Other symposium sessions were dedicated to Protein Analysis, Combinatorial Techniques, and Mass Spectrometric Methods. This diversity of topics maintained a central focus on the separation and characterization of biomolecules, independent of the methodologies employed for that purpose. This approach not only provides for the attendees to obtain updates on the frontiers of their own specialized technologies but also to obtain exposure to other approaches to solving difficult technical challenges.

The extensive poster session and the social pro-

gram, including evening receptions and a banquet, gave attendees time to interact with each other in an informal, intimate setting for technology discussions and for building a network of allies in their quest for technical problem-solving. The ISPPP symposium series has always emphasized these opportunities for conversations not only with peers but also with world-class experts in many scientific fields.

The symposium and social program was sponsored by the Waters Corporation, Agilent Technologies (formerly the Hewlett-Packard Company), Octapharma Pharmazeutica, and BIA Separations. Their financial support is greatly appreciated by the participants and the Organizing Committee. In addition to these major sponsors, eleven other instrument or laboratory supplies companies exhibited their products at the conference, providing attendees with an opportunity to see first-hand the latest tools available for performing biomolecule separations and characterizations. These supporting companies are appreciated for their valuable contributions to the success of the symposium. The St. Louis Chromatography Discussion Group and the Washington Chromatography Discussion Group are recognized for their contributions in publicizing and promoting this symposium.

Special appreciation goes to the Secretariat of the meeting, Janet Cunningham and Cheryl Popp of Barr Enterprises. Their organizational skills and friendly manner make the holding of meetings such as this one a real pleasure. Their behind-the-scenes work creates a trouble-free atmosphere so that the conferees can accomplish their goals without hindrance. I also wish to thank the members of the ISPPP Scientific Committee for their confidence in me to hold this symposium and for their scientific insights

which assisted me and my committee to build a strong program: Professor Milton T.W. Hearn (Australia), Professor Klaus Unger (Germany), Professor Alois Jungbauer (Austria), Professor Robert Hodges (Canada), and Professor Richard Willson (USA). A special thank you is extended to the Organizing Committee in the USA: Brian Bidlingmeyer, Barry Boyes, Robert Ricker, and Bill Hancock, for their work to recruit featured speakers and to coordinate a strong technical program.

Finally, I invite the speakers and other participants at this symposium to rejoin us at the next meeting of the ISPPP in Ljubljana, Slovenia, on 5–8 November, 2000. Details for this meeting can be found at [www.biaseparations.com/isppp2000](http://www.biaseparations.com/isppp2000) or at [www.zorbax.com/isppp](http://www.zorbax.com/isppp).

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