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Preface

The *13th International Symposium on High Performance Capillary Electrophoresis and Related Microscale Techniques*, HPCE 2000, took place in Saarbrücken, Germany, from 20 to 24 February 2000. We could welcome over 600 participants from 31 different countries. In total 112 plenary and discussion lectures were presented together with almost 300 poster presentations. Lectures and posters demonstrated the broad range, where capillary electrophoresis has been established as a fast and reliable microanalytical system.

The application of CE techniques in DNA and protein analysis has always played a dominant role in this meeting series. CE in bioanalysis and in proteomics, together with increasing application of coupling devices with mass spectroscopy may act as representative examples for the papers presented at Saarbrücken. Coupling CE with MS seems to be the way to combine the potential of CE for high efficiency and high speed of analysis with the detection sensitivity of MS and its ability for positive identification for its application in combinatorial chemistry. The reduced requirements for sample preparation in CE compared to HPLC leads to increasing utilization of CE in clinical chemistry.

Capillary electrochromatography is still an attractive area in these meetings. The combination of chromatographic retention and electromigration for improved selectivities, especially in proteomics, is an interesting field of present research. At HPCE 2000 a special symposium on CEC was included to honor

Professor Cs. Horváth at his 70th anniversary. He also was at this meeting the first recipient of the 'Michael-Widmer-Award' sponsored by the New Swiss Chemical Society and Novartis.

Miniaturization of analytical systems by analysis on microchip has always been a significant domain within this series of meetings. Because of the increasing importance of microchips in analysis the Scientific Committee has decided to change the name of the symposium. The next symposium of this series will take place in Boston, 13–18 January 2001 as HPCE 2001, *14th International Symposium on Microscale Separations and Analysis* under the chairmanship of W.S. Hancock and B.L. Karger.

To organize an International Symposium requires financial help and a good team. I wish to acknowledge gratefully the financial help of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, Bonn, the Ministerium für Bildung, Kultur und Wissenschaft of the Saarland, and of CaSSS for student grants as well as Agilent Technologies for sponsoring three poster awards. The organization at Saarbrücken was done by the team of KWT of Universität des Saarlandes, where Mrs. U. Merkle was responsible for the technical organization, and by my two coworkers O. Grosche and Th. Faller who spent a lot of time in handling the scientific program and the registration. Their help is deeply appreciated.

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