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Preface

It is a great pleasure and an honour for me to serve as guest editor for this special issue on chiral separations dedicated to Professor Yoshio Okamoto on the occasion of his 60th birthday.

Perhaps the life achievements of Professor Okamoto should be described in a few words. However, I will not attempt this because, in my opinion, he cannot be better and more elegantly characterized than by the words of one of his peers, who did call him “One of the most successful players in the big game of enantioseparations” [1].

The many contributions to this volume by experts in the field is a clear indication of the great respect for the personality and scientific achievements of Professor Okamoto. This enthusiastic support allowed me to put together contributions by pioneers in the field, as well as papers by younger scientists responsible for a further successful development of this field at the start of the new millennium. Several younger contributors are representatives of the numerous former students or visiting researchers of the Okamoto laboratory, who, consequently, are infected for life by the “Okamoto syndrome”. The symptoms include a complete dedication to the job, great respect for the competitors and self-criticism in the estimation of their own achievements. Some of us have had the pleasure not only to discuss science with him until very late in the evening but also to receive lessons in the tradition-rich Japanese lifestyle, in some of the secrets of the old Japanese chess-like game Go or in golf. One wonders how one

person (years starting from the charming banks of the Muko river in the Osaka prefecture) could manage to absorb in 60 years so many traditional and modern arts and cultures, to deeply explore various sciences, and at the same time be so delicate and balanced in life and aggressive in science, as well as deeply traditional and extremely modern. In my opinion, the greatest talent of Professor Okamoto is to be in the right place at the right time.

I would like to thank all authors and reviewers for contributing to this volume. Without their support the volume would not have been possible. In the name of all of us and the large community of workers in separation and polymer science (the native field of Professor Okamoto’s brilliant career) we would like to say “Happy birthday Professor Okamoto”!

As I learned from old scripts, a man starts after kan-reki (the 60th birthday celebration according to the classical Chinese calendar) a new circle from childhood. We wish this new circle to be at least as happy and successful as the present one for you, your wife, your son and your numerous friends world-wide.

References

- [1] N.M. Meier, P. Franco, W. Lindner, J. Chromatogr. A 906 (2000) 3.

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