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Foreword

The ExTech 2000 symposium was dedicated to Advances in Extraction Technologies, and was held at the University of Waterloo, 1–3 May 2000. The symposium was organized by myself and the members of my research group. We were delighted to be able to host this second ExTech Symposium and contribute to 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 2000 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, extraction materials, techniques to reaction pathway monitoring, theoretical 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. Special attention was also given to membrane extraction and new extraction materials. This issue reflects on some of the topics discussed during the symposium. We hope ExTech 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.

During this year's symposium we were able to recognize the leading scientists in the area of sample preparation through the Excellence in Sample Prepa-

ration award generously sponsored by Varian Canada. Recipients of year 2000 award were Professors Jonsson and Mathiasson. Jan Åke Jönsson is professor and senior lecturer at the Department of Analytical Chemistry, Lund University, Lund, Sweden. He is secretary of the IUPAC Commission of Separation Methods in Analytical Chemistry and his main research interest are the fundamentals of chromatography and modern techniques for sample preparation, especially membrane extraction techniques in biological and environmental analysis. Lennart Mathiasson is professor and senior lecturer at the Department of Analytical Chemistry, Lund University, Lund, Sweden. His main research interests are in the development of modern extraction techniques, especially supercritical fluid extraction and microwave-assisted extraction as well as membrane techniques and their applications to environmental, food and occupational hygiene problems.

ExTech 2001 will be held in Barcelona, 17–19 September 2001 organized by Dr. Josep Bayona and his colleagues at the IIQAB-CSIC. The focus of the symposium will be directed towards new chemistries to enhance extraction selectivity and solventless techniques. The registration fees are kept low (150 euros) and accommodation is available at low cost to facilitate student participation. Please see <http://www.iiqab.csic.es/extechcat.htm> for details. Future ExTech symposia are scheduled for Paris in 2002, Tampa in 2003 and Brugge in 2004.

Janusz Pawliszyn

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