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## Foreword

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The *20th International Symposium on the Separation and Analysis of Proteins, Polypeptides and Polynucleotides (ISPPP2000)*, held at the congress center "Cankarjev dom" from 5–8 November 2000 in Ljubljana, Slovenia, has this year celebrated a double jubilee. Firstly, an internal one, being the 20th of its kind, and secondly an external one, taking place in the year 2000, the beginning of a new millennium.

Over the past 20 years we have seen breathtaking developments in analytical and preparative separations of proteins, polypeptides and polynucleotides. They have allowed us not to lose ground to other fields in modern biology. Consequently, this year's topics were in line with the latest research in analytical biotechnology and down-stream processing.

The scientific program, which consisted of 40 lectures and over 100 posters, ranged from the fundamentals of separations to miniaturization, mass spectrometry, proteomics and large-scale separations. The increasing number of participants, who came from 20 European and overseas countries, underlined the consolidated interest in this area. The scientific part was accompanied by 6 vendors' seminars of the industry. They allowed participants to get involved in the latest technological progress.

On top of its scientific importance, the symposium had a symbolic value. For the first time it took place in a former communist country. Slovenia looks back on less than 10 years of independence and democracy. Ljubljana, although being a relatively small capital of a small state in central Europe, looks

proudly back on a long history. Its manifestations are ruins from Roman times, a castle and old town built in the Middle Ages and a rich variety of Art Nouveau architecture. I hope that you agreed with me at the end of the meeting that Ljubljana is a most charming place and that you enjoyed its excellent food and the friendly people.

I want to thank the Slovenian Ministry of Science and Technology for supporting the project in many important ways. Besides, I want to thank all our sponsors, whose generous financial support has allowed us to keep this symposium on the highest level, including the social program. Thanks also go to all members of the Scientific Committee for their help in the preparation of the program of the symposium. We are grateful to Mr. Aleš Štrancar and the staff of Cankarjev dom under the leadership of Mrs. Tea Alič for the excellent organisation throughout the symposium. We thank Mr. Alois Jungbauer and Mr. Friedrich Lottspeich for many useful hints in matters of organization, and Mr. Zdeněk Deyl for the help he has given to many participants from central and eastern Europe, thus allowing them to come.

The symposium in Ljubljana has borne out the positive development that began in Vienna 1998 and Delray Beach 1999. We value highly the contributions of all who have taken part in the rich scientific program, making ISPPP 2000 the success that it has been.

Djuro Josić  
Vienna, Austria