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Foreword

A report on the 14th *International Symposium on Microscale Separations and Analysis* (HPCE'01) for the Symposium volumes is a tradition that allows the readers to reflect on the highlights of the meeting. It is a good opportunity for all delegates to remember the stimulating interactions that they had with their colleagues. As chairmen, we are pleased to remember that the meeting was a resounding success and reflected well on the hard work of a large group of volunteers, as well the professional organizational skills of Catherine Federle, Joan Oefner and Tom Gilbert. The excellent program was a reflection of the insight of the scientific committee. HPCE'01 was the 14th in the series, and it was fitting that the meeting should return to its origins, namely Boston. The meeting continues to grow due to a refocusing and extension of the scope of the meeting, with the addition of workshops in the areas of genomics and proteomics. These workshops were directed by international authorities in their fields and were popular with the delegates.

Part of the successful atmosphere of the meeting was due to the cosmopolitan atmosphere of Boston. Another advantage is the high concentration of biotechnology companies in the area which certainly helped in terms of local support. A final factor is that the meeting theme continues to be in an innovative field, with a healthy involvement of university research groups. This was evident by a large student involvement in the program. In addition, we are beginning to see the adoption of HPCE more widely in the pharmaceutical industry. The meeting set a record in attendance and left the delegates with the feeling that their discipline had many years of active life left.

The scientific program was of a high quality as you will see from the following publications, although it was intense with double and triple sessions except for the opening and closing plenaries. Not

surprisingly with the Boston location, the meeting had many interesting abstracts from biotechnology scientists as well as the emerging fields of genomics and proteomics. For the first time, minisymposiums were held on these topics over two days each. This focus was particularly appreciated by the busy attendees of many companies.

The thrust of the meeting—microscale separations and analysis—brought together most of the leading scientists. All attendees came away with the impression that the field is vibrant and that exciting advances can be expected in the coming years. Moreover, many important applications were presented of HPCE, both in the capillary and microchip format, including coupling to mass spectrometry.

A noteworthy event was the special memorial symposium for Professor Josef F.K. Huber, Vienna, a leader in separation science who recently passed away. Distinguished colleagues—Csaba Horváth, Georges Guiochon and Ernst Bayer—recalled many wonderful experiences with Josef. His colleagues and friends presented their research in this session. This was followed by a small dinner in which his son, Wolfgang, provided a moving tribute to his father.

So HPCE'01 is over and this volume of the *Journal of Chromatography A* will be an important record of the meeting to supplement our many happy memories of the wonderful group of delegates. Such a meeting is only successful because of a lot of hard work by many and so we end our report by thanking them on behalf of all of the delegates. We look forward to seeing you at future meetings in the series.

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