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## Foreword

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The 25<sup>th</sup> *International Symposium on High Performance Liquid Phase Separations and Related Techniques*, HPLC 2001, was held in Maastricht, Netherlands, 17–22 June 2001. This series—formerly the *Symposia on High-Performance Liquid Chromatography and Symposia on Column Liquid Chromatography*—started in Interlaken (Switzerland) in 1973. Since 1981, the series is organized yearly and alternates between Europe and the USA. In 2001, for the first time, there was next to the regular meeting an additional meeting organized in Kyoto (Japan).

In Maastricht the total number of attendees was about 1000, which means that this series still is the premier annual symposium on separation science in the world. The participants came from 53 countries all over the world. In total 12 workshops, 9 tutorials, 129 oral presentations and 496 posters were presented. In addition to these scientific presentations over 20 vendor seminars were presented and a well attended exhibition with 62 vendors was organized close to the lecture halls. The 650 presentations showed that HPLC 2001 really was a forum for scientific discussions on high-performance liquid chromatography and electrophoresis in their various forms, along with complementary and conjugated separation techniques, such as field-flow fractionation, electrochromatography and supercritical-fluid chromatography. All fundamental aspects, instrumental developments and applications of the various techniques have been covered, in a variety of application fields, including biotechnology, bio-analytical and pharmaceutical chemistry, environmental, food, and polymer analysis.

The scientific interactions on diverse topics were stimulated, successfully, by the organization of thematic poster sessions which augmented parallel

lecture sessions, both with invited and submitted lectures. In addition to the regular program, each day one set of the parallel sessions was devoted to a special theme: Hyphenation on Sunday, Genomics/Proteomics on Monday, Polymers on Tuesday, Environmental on Wednesday, Biopharmaceuticals on Thursday and Mass spectrometry on Friday.

The scientific program started with a session on the potential of hyphenated techniques where the power of multidimensional and hyphenated separation techniques was clearly shown by J.W. Jorgenson and I.D. Wilson. The topic of genomics and proteomics was introduced by F.E. Regnier talking about recognizing the differences in biological samples composed of a million components. A topic which certainly is a new challenge for separation scientists. The mysteries of polymer analysis by liquid-phase separations were unravelled by P.J. Schoenmakers, while the discussion on environmental analysis was started by U.A.Th. Brinkman talking about the complementarity of LC and GC approaches as well as the added power of MS detection for this type of applications. On Wednesday afternoon a special session was organized to honor the late J.F.K. Huber as well as J.J. Kirkland, K.-P. Hupe and J.H. Knox. These four outstanding scientists were all honored for their contributions in the field of liquid-phase separations and the organization of previous HPLC meetings, as members of the permanent scientific committee of this symposium series. The biopharmaceutical day was opened by H. Irth who spoke about analytical screening technologies for drug discovery, emphasizing the integration of chemical analysis and biochemical assays. The last day of the symposium was devoted to MS and while R.D. Vayksner discussed the advances of LC–MS to

narrow the gap between biology and chemistry, J.D. Henion showed the potential of electrospray MS for the determination of small molecules using chip-based chemistries. The scientific program was closed by W.S. Hancock and B.L. Karger, both describing the future of proteomics in using, for example, high-resolution liquid-phase separation – matrix-assisted laser desorption ionization MS as an extremely powerful technique.

The combination of the friendly atmosphere during the symposium, the social activities—such as the visit to the caves—and the high quality of the science presented, probably are the reason that in these Special Volumes quite a number of the oral and

poster presentations are gathered showing the fine research performed in the area of liquid separations.

HPLC 2002, number 26 in the series, will be held in 2002 (2–7 June) in Montreal and chaired by Professor Irving W. Wainer. This meeting will again be a good opportunity to renew contacts, make new scientific friends and have stimulating discussions about science and . . .

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