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## Foreword

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The fourteenth annual International Ion Chromatography Symposium (IICS) was held 9–12 September, 2001, in Oak Brook, IL, USA, a suburb of Chicago. From Europe, Asia, and the Americas, 175 delegates came for four days of short courses, scientific sessions, and workshops. As in past years, the focus of the conference was on ion chromatography (IC) and capillary electrophoresis/capillary electrochromatography (CE/CEC), as they apply to small ions.

The meeting began on Sunday with two all-day classes, one on CE/CEC and the other on statistics for analytical chemists. A welcome reception that evening provided an informal setting for attendees to meet each other and renew friendships.

The formal scientific program opened on Monday morning and continued through Wednesday noon. A total of 65 oral and 62 poster papers were given throughout this time.

The opening session was plenary and was devoted to two lectures. The first presentation was by Timothy Stevens (of Small, Stevens, and Bauman fame), Midland, MI, USA. His keynote address, “The Membrane Suppressor: A Historical Perspective”, included details of initial suppressor work, as well as vignettes about patent issues. Next, Corrado Sarzanini of the University of Turin, Turin, Italy, was presented with the IICS 2001 Achievement Award. His lecture, “Ion Chromatography: The Widest Expression of Analytical Chemistry”, dealt primarily with new stationary phases and the miniaturization of instrumentation. The final event of this session was the recognition of the two Student Award recipients: Panos Hatsis (University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada) and Philip

Zakaria (University of Tasmania, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia). Both are graduate students at their respective institutions. Each received a travel grant, and each presented both a poster and an oral paper during the symposium.

The format for the remaining oral presentations was two simultaneous sessions, each with a different topic. Subjects on Monday afternoon were IC Separation Selectivity, and Ions in Drinking Water. Talks on Tuesday addressed CE Methods for Ion Analysis, Advances in Detection, Food and Beverage Applications, Power Generation Applications, Environmental Applications, and Analysis of Ions in Industrial Samples. The final papers on Wednesday morning dealt with Pharmaceutical Applications, Emerging Technologies, and Semiconductors and Pure Chemicals.

Additional information was presented and discussed in poster sessions held on both Monday and Tuesday afternoons. Daily opportunities for informal exchanges and socializing were available during the symposium breakfasts and lunches. A final time for training occurred Wednesday afternoon, when Dionex Corp. presented two workshops: (1) Column Selection and IC Methods Development, and (2) IC Troubleshooting.

As is the case every year, this symposium was led by its Scientific Committee. My appreciation is extended to my fellow 2001 members: (1) Becky Adams, The Dow Chemical Company, Freeport, TX, USA; (2) Nebojsa Avdalovic, Dionex Corp., Sunnyvale, CA, USA; (3) James Fritz, Iowa State University, Ames, IA, USA; (4) Paul Haddad, University of Tasmania, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia; (5) Charles Lucy, University of Alberta, Edmonton,

Alberta, Canada; (6) Shi-fen Mou, Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences, Beijing, China; and (7) Chris Pohl, Dionex Corporation.

Several people deserve recognition and my deepest gratitude for their contributions to the 2001 symposium. Four of the sessions were actively organized by enthusiastic volunteers: (1) Pharmaceutical Applications by Kelly Cass-Samodral, Eli Lilly & Co., Indianapolis, IN, USA; (2) Power Generation Applications by Amy Ekechukwu, Savannah River Technology Center, Aiken, SC, USA, with assistance from Bev Newton, Dionex Corp.; (3) Food and Beverage Applications by Dave Jackson, US Food and Drug Administration, Cincinnati, OH, USA; and (4) Ions in Drinking Water by Peter Jackson, Dionex Corp. Becky Adams provided valuable input on the layout of several promotional fliers, and also braved new territory by compiling an index for the Final Program. Chuck Lucy oversaw the nomination and selection of the Award recipient, and then presented the commendation to Prof. Sarzanini. As always, Erich Heftmann of the *A Journal of Chromatography* collected manuscripts at the symposium and then shepherded them skillfully through the peer-review process. Janet Strimaitis of Century International continued her thorough and professional management of the meeting. I will always remember and appreciate her patience, sense of humor, and gracious style. Throughout the planning, Petra Donnelly, Jeff Rohrer, Ken Larkey, and Mike Sommer of Dionex Corp. cheerfully assisted with the many organizational details. In addition, the symposium extends its great appreciation to Dionex Corp. as a whole for their most generous financial support. Finally, I would like to thank my dear friend, Sandy Dasgupta of Texas Tech University, Lubbock TX, USA, for being my mentor ever since I became involved with the IICS, and especially for encouraging me to assume the role of Program Chairman for IICS'01.

The next symposium will again be held in the

USA. The venue is Baltimore, MD, the site of IICS'93. The dates are 29 September–2 October, 2002, and all interested persons are encouraged to attend.

In closing, I would like to reflect on my strongest impressions from this symposium. Clearly, the scientific caliber of this meeting was high and worthy of note. However, my most gratifying memory is of the delegates' reaction to the horrifying events of 11 September. Although we continued with the planned program, the atmosphere had shifted markedly, since the enormity of this tragedy weighed heavily upon us. The result was that all 175 of us became a "family" that was in this matter together. We agonized while a Chinese professor waited to receive word about her son, who worked in the World Trade Center; we collectively rejoiced a few hours later when she heard that he had not gone to work that day and thus was safe. We supported those who had family who were away from home and thus out of immediate contact (all were found to be safe). Those of us who lived in the USA did everything possible to help the foreign delegates find acceptable routes home. People who lived in the same region of this country got together to form carpools, some of which went out of their way to take someone to his or her house. By Monday morning, 17 September, most everyone had gotten at least part way home. However, the bonds of this new family did not end then. E-mails and phone calls flew back and forth to check up on each other, especially on those who had to cross a country by car or an ocean by numerous airplane flights. So while the attendees' scientific contributions were superb, these were outshone by what really matters in life: concern for the welfare of our fellow human beings. I am honored to have been a part of this outstanding group of people, and I salute them all for their compassion and concern!

*Air Liquide America,  
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Lynn E. Vanatta