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Journal of Chromatography A, 972 (2002) 1

JOURNAL OF
CHROMATOGRAPHY A

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Foreword

The *Twenty-First International Symposium on the Separation and Analysis of Proteins, Peptides, and Polynucleotides (ISPPP'01)*, was held in Orlando, FL, USA, 11–14 November 2001. The meeting comprised 39 oral presentations in 10 lecture sessions, 70 poster presentations, and a highly interactive discussion session on the emerging needs of multi-dimensional separation technologies. Special seminar/workshops were presented by several exhibitors and were well-received by the attendees. Several students were awarded student scholarships to attend the meeting sponsored by Elsevier Science and the California Separation Science Society (CaSSS). Seed sponsorship money was provided by the Society for the Advancement of Separations Technology.

The three-day symposium was held shortly after the horrendous events of 11 September. While these events adversely affected the attendance of the meeting, the spirit of the attendees was undaunted and the terrorist acts could not prevent the purposeful transfer of scientific knowledge that this symposium has as its highest priority. The scientific program explored such state-of-the-art topics as proteomics, multi-dimensional techniques, mass spectrometry advances, and evolving capillary and nano-column technologies. The focus of the meeting is on the use of modern separation and characterization technologies in the increasingly important field of bio-analytical science. The diversity of analytical methodologies, combined with the focus on practical

applications of these techniques, provided valuable insights to many of the participants. The extensive poster sessions and the social program, which included evening receptions and a banquet, gave attendees ample time to interact with each other in non-formal, intimate settings for technology discussions and story-sharing. The ISPPP Symposia have long emphasized these opportunities for personal conversations and exchanges of recent advances among the participants.

I wish to thank the Secretariat of the meeting, Janet Cunningham and Cheryl Popp of Barr Enterprises, for their many efforts in the planning of the meeting. Major Corporate sponsorship by Agilent Technologies, the Waters Corporation, and BIA Separations is especially appreciated for making possible the social programs at the meeting. Special recognition is accorded to the members of the Scientific Committee: Prof. Milton T. W. Hearn (Australia), Prof. Robert S. Hodges (USA), Prof. Alois Jungbauer (Austria), Dr. Mark Schure (USA), Prof. Richard Willson (USA), and Prof. Klaus Unger (Germany). Finally, I thank the many speakers and participants at the meeting for their invaluable participation and invite them to attend future ISPPP symposia to continue their growth in knowledge and to share with others the recent advances in the separation and characterization of biologically important molecules.

Newport, DE, USA

Joe J. DeStefano