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Foreword

The *15th International Symposium on Microscale Separations and Analysis* (HPCE 2002) was held in Stockholm, Sweden, in April 2002. The venue was the magnificent *Aula Magna*, a conference centre at Stockholm University. The focus of the symposium was life sciences, primarily proteomics and genomics, and pharmaceutical sciences. Around 500 delegates from 35 different countries could enjoy over 80 oral presentations and about 300 posters. 150 non-European delegates equalled the Swedish delegation in number, 75 of them were from the USA. The symposium attracted participants both from academia and industry, about 300 and 200, respectively, signalling that the program was well balanced regarding basic and applied science. Close to 50% of the participants from university were students, which is a good sign for the future of the symposium series.

I would like to acknowledge the Scientific Advisory Committee for their input and advice on the scientific program. I would further like to emphasize the importance of the Permanent Scientific Advisory Committee in establishing and maintaining a high scientific quality of this symposium series, and also their clear-sighted view in recognizing trends and current streams in the science of microscale separations and analysis, which is a prerequisite for the continuous success of the series.

The scientific program started and ended with high quality plenary sessions, that were indicative of the excellent standard of the science at the symposium and that made a strong impact on the participants. Denis Hochstrasser started with an authoritative lecture on state of the art as well as future of proteomics in medicine; Jack Henion discussed the potential of chip-technology combined with mass spectrometry for bioanalysis; Albert van den Berg

gave illustrative examples on the actual use and the potential of micro- and nanofluidic systems for laboratory-on-a-chip research. In the final plenary session, Robert Kennedy reviewed his work on capillary separations in neurosciences especially emphasizing *in vivo* chemical monitoring; Hubertus Irth talked on high-throughput screening applying LC combined with biochemical detection principles, and finally Matthias Uhlén demonstrated his interesting approach in coupling genomics with proteomics to map the protein content in selected organisms. The general scientific program was composed by two parallel sessions with the attempt to avoid serious overlaps. Two days were devoted to proteomics and protein analysis, one day to chip technology, there were several sessions on biomedical and fundamentals, and sessions on genomics, micellar electrokinetic chromatography, capillary electrochromatography, and enantioseparations were also included. The impact and use of electrodriven separation techniques in pharmaceutical analysis were presented and discussed by contributors from the pharmaceutical industry during one afternoon. I am grateful to the organizers of the session: Cari Sängers-van-de-Griend, AstraZeneca R&D, Sweden, and David Lloyd, Bristol-Myers Squibb, USA, who made this a rewarding event.

To make a symposium especially memorable requires also an attractive social program, which included a highly appreciated buffet lunch and guided tour of the Stockholm City Hall; a symposium dinner at Skansen, the open-air museum of Stockholm; as well as a welcome and farewell receptions. We were also happy to enjoy nice sunny weather throughout the week, which is quite remarkable in Sweden in April.

The successful organisation of an international symposium requires financial support and a dedicated team of co-workers. I wish to gratefully acknowledge our sponsors, The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences through its Nobel Institute for Chemistry; The Swedish National Committee for Chemistry; California Separation Science Society (CaSSS); Elsevier Science; Gyros AB, Uppsala; City of Stockholm; and AstraZeneca R&D, Mölndal and Södertälje. A successful meeting is the result of hard work from many individuals, and I would like to thank all members of the local and scientific committees for their valuable input and discussions. The

Swedish Chemical Society was responsible for organizing all the practical details, and I would like to congratulate Monika Edström and her colleagues for excellent work.

I am convinced that this volume of the *Journal of Chromatography A* will be a high quality record of important value for all participants, and to the community of separation scientists in general. I recommend all readers to participate in future meetings in the series.

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