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Journal of Chromatography A, 1006 (2003) 1

JOURNAL OF
CHROMATOGRAPHY A

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Foreword

The *International Symposium on Preparative and Industrial Chromatography and Allied Techniques* (SPICA 2002) was held between 6 and 9 October 2002, in Heidelberg (Germany). Venue of the meeting was the magnificent “Stadthalle” at the Neckar River. It was the 9th event in a series of symposia on preparative chromatography that started in 1986 in Paris and has been continued every second year in Baden-Baden, Ghent, Nancy, Baden-Baden, Basel, Strasbourg and Zurich.

The meeting was focused on the isolation and purification of value-added products by applying chromatography in the broad sense. Crystallisation and membrane separation as possible alternative processes have been also discussed in several contributions. More than 300 participants came from 24 countries. The scientific program comprised 33 oral presentations and 91 poster presentations. It was supplemented by an exhibition where 26 companies provided an up to date overview of current technologies in preparative chromatography. Before the meeting on Sunday afternoon four well attended short courses were organised. In addition two manufacturer seminars were offered.

I would like to thank the members of the Scientific Committee for the efficient and pleasant work in establishing the program of the meeting: Dr. H. Colin (France), Dr. J. Dingenen (Belgium), Dr. R. Ditz (Germany), Dr. E. Francotte (Switzerland), Professor A. Jungbauer (Austria), Professor J. Kinkel (Germany), Professor M. Morbidelli (Switzerland), Dr. D. Sanchez (Sweden), Dr. C. Strawson (Great Britain), Dr. G. Terfloth (USA), Professor H. Yoshida (Japan). Further, I would like to thank D. Heckmann

(Chiral Technologies Europe) for his substantial support in organising the exhibition. The efforts of the following lecturers of the short courses are gratefully acknowledged: Dr. J. Dingenen, Dr. R. Hahn, Professor A. Jungbauer, Professor J. Kinkel, Dr. O. Ludemann-Hombourger, Professor M. Mazzotti, Dr. A. Podgornik, Dr. M. Schulte, Dr. J. Strube and Professor K. Unger. I wish also to acknowledge the essential support of the following sponsors: AstraZeneca, Chiral Technologies Europe, Eka Chemicals, Elsevier, NovaSep SAS, Merck KGaA, Schering AG and the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft.

A successful meeting is always the result of hard work of many individuals. I would like to thank DEHEMA e.V. (in particular Dr. V. Wiesmet and K. Wald) and all members of the local committee for organising all practical details.

I hope this volume will prove useful for the readers of the *Journal of Chromatography A*. The papers included demonstrate the wide scope and intensity of research work carried out in preparative chromatography.

I would like to invite those involved in the field to participate in the next SPICA meeting. It will be held in Aachen (Germany) between 17 and 20 October 2004. On 20 October there will be a joint session with the *24th International Symposium on the Separation of Proteins, Peptides and Polynucleotides* (ISPPP) which will take place at the same location between 19 and 22 October 2004.

Andreas Seidel-Morgenstern
Magdeburg, Germany