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## Foreword

The *22nd International Symposium on the Separation of Proteins, Peptides and Polynucleotides (ISPPP'02)* was held in the beautiful city of Heidelberg from 10–13 November 2002. The scientific program followed the successful format of previous meetings. It started with four well accepted basic workshops on HPLC separation technology, electroseparations, interfacing techniques with mass spectrometry, and preparative HPLC of biomolecules. During the main program more than 200 participants from all over the world discussed in 34 lectures and more than 80 posters scientific new advances and applications for the separation scientists addressing all issues of separation and analysis of proteins, peptides, polynucleotides and related biomolecules with modern techniques. Sessions were devoted to modern methodologies, sample preparation, separation sciences for proteomics and genomics, from proteomics to processing scale, informatics and high-throughput concepts toward systems biology. The tremendous challenges of complexity connected with proteomics and genomics became apparent. The discussions clearly pointed out that

improvements on separation and detection techniques, connected with high-throughput data handling and bioinformatics, will be the prerequisite for a success of systems biology.

The success of this meeting was mainly due to many individuals who contributed to the symposium. I would like to express my sincere thanks to Veronika Wiesmet from the DECHEMA for her expert work in organizing and running the symposium. Special thanks to all my colleagues of the scientific committee Joe J. DeStefano, Reinhard Ditz, Milton T.W. Hearn, Djuro Josic, Alois Jungbauer, Gerard Rosing, Klaus K. Unger and Richard C. Wilson for their excellent assistance in preparing the program. I would also like to thank Dr. Zdenek Deyl for his excellent editorial work on this symposium issue.

The next meeting, ISPPP'03, is to be held in Delray Beach, FL, USA, from 9–12 November 2003 under the Chairmanship of Joseph J. DeStefano, USA. We are looking forward to another exciting and successful meeting.

*Martinsried, Germany*

Friedrich Lottspeich