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Foreword

From 13 to 17 May 2002, the 25th *International Symposium on Capillary Chromatography* was held at the Palazzo dei Congressi in Riva del Garda, Italy. In this uniquely charming city more than 700 attendees from 39 countries discussed the new developments in miniaturized chromatography and electrophoresis.

The symposium was preceded by two very well-attended short courses on “Comprehensive GC×GC” and on “LC-CE/MS”. During the meeting, 39 plenary lectures and 21 keynote lectures, the latter reserved to younger presenters, a forum, 410 posters, 2 discussion sessions and 9 seminars covered the fundamental aspects, instrumental developments and applications of state-of-the-art capillary chromatography and electrophoresis.

The Golay award, sponsored by Perkin-Elmer, was presented to Keith Bartle (University of Leeds) for his pioneering work in capillary chromatography and to Stellan Hjertén (University of Uppsala) for his distinguished contributions to electrodriven separation methods. The Martin Medal, awarded by the Chromatography Society, UK, was presented to Mike Ramsey (Oak Ridge National Laboratory) for his contributions to micro- and nano-fluidic separation systems and to Paul Haddad (University of Tasmania) for developments in ion separations by

capillary electrophoresis and ion chromatography. Two special sessions were held. In the first session Arnaldo Liberti was commemorated by presentations from different Italian institutes. The second session was dedicated to Leslie Ettre (Yale University) on the occasion of his 80th birthday.

To encourage scientific exchange and friendship building, the scientific program was spiced with the well-known Riva social program sponsored by several companies: welcome reception (Dani), cocktail party (Gerstel) after the classical concert (Perkin-Elmer), wine and cheese evening (Agilent Technologies) followed by the Tiffany’s disco night—sorry Phil, Jan and Hans-Gerd—(Thermo Finnigan) and farewell cocktail (Elsevier).

The articles published in this proceedings volume cover most of the topics discussed at the meeting. We thank Dr. Erich Heftmann for his editorial work.

We like to thank all attendees for making this meeting successful and the sponsors for their support. The 26th meeting will be chaired by Milton Lee (Brigham Young University) and be held in Las Vegas, 18–22 May 2003 and the 27th meeting will take place in Riva del Garda, 31 May–4 June 2004.

Ghent, Belgium

Pat Sandra