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Foreword

PREP-2002, the 15th *Symposium on Preparative and Process Chromatography*, took place from 16 to 19 June 2002 at the Renaissance Washington Hotel, in Washington, DC, USA. It was attended by over 350 participants. Forty-eight oral communications were presented and seventy poster contributions were displayed and discussed. In addition, forty companies exhibited their equipment, materials, and products used in preparative and process chromatography. This exhibit offered the attendants an opportunity to get more familiar with recent technical developments. Six symposium workshops and eleven manufacturers' workshops were organized the Sunday before the meeting, during the breakfasts, the lunches and the afternoon pauses. The format of these workshops and seminars was conducive to intense exchanges of ideas. The topics selected emphasized practical and concrete considerations, thus complementing the more fundamental aspect of the classical part of the program.

The optimization of a separation performed by preparative chromatography is a multiparameter, nonlinear problem. It remains incompletely mastered. The successful development of a new application requires the understanding of many physicochemical phenomena. A comprehensive knowledge of the state of the art in methods, materials, equipment, and products, especially stationary phases, is necessary. A yearly symposium combining a rich scientific program and an exhibit continues to be helpful in clarifying the issues involved. The quality of the presentations made and of the new equipment and products exhibited at PREP-2002 demonstrates the vigor of the research effort undergone in both academy and industry and the importance and relevance of the separation problems encountered in various applications.

The help of Dr. Firoz Antia (Merck & Co.), Dr.

Giorgio Carta (The University of Virginia), Dr. John Frenz (Genentech), Dr. Anita Katti (Engineering and Process Chromatography Solutions), Ms. Harlene Marks (NOVASEP), Dr. Joan Newburger (R.W. Johnson Pharmaceutical Research Institute), and Dr. Franco Spoldi (MODCOL), the members of the organizing committee of PREP-2002, in the review of the abstracts submitted and in the organization of the program was greatly appreciated. The sponsorship of the St. Louis and the Washington Chromatography Discussion Groups is gratefully acknowledged, as well as the support extended by Akzo Nobel/Eka Chemicals, CIPHERGEN Biosystems/BioSeptra Division, MODCOL, NOVASEP, TechniKrom, and Waters Corporation for the organization of the social program. It is a pleasure to thank Mrs. Janet Cunningham of Barr Enterprises, Symposium Manager, whose organizational skills allowed a successful operation of the meeting.

The present issue of the *Journal of Chromatography A* includes the papers submitted during the symposium. These papers represent the nature and intensity of the research carried out in preparative chromatography. We hope this volume will prove useful to those involved in this field. We are grateful to the Editor of the Symposium Volumes and to the editorial staff of the journal for their professionalism and dedication in producing this volume.

PREP-2003, the next meeting in the series, will take place in San Francisco, CA, USA, from 29 June to 2 July 2003. It will be sponsored by the California Separation Science Society (CASSS) and by the Washington Chromatography Discussion Group. It will be held in the Westin St-Francis and will have the same format as the previous symposia.

Knoxville, TN, USA

Georges Guiochon