



## Foreword

The 26th International Symposium on Capillary Chromatography and Electrophoresis was held on 18–22 May 2003, in Las Vegas, Nevada, USA. This symposium was the 26th in a series of meetings that began in Hindelang, Germany, in 1975, and most recently alternates between Riva del Garda, Italy, and Las Vegas, NV, USA. Since its beginning, this symposium series has been the leading forum for presentation of new developments in the field of capillary column gas chromatography. During the last ten years, emphasis has shifted to include all areas of capillary and micro-channel (i.e., microchip) separations.

This year in Las Vegas, there were 52 talks on liquid-phase separation techniques. The symposium was started with three Golay Award lectures by the pioneers of microchip separations: Andreas Manz, D. Jed Harrison, and J. Michael Ramsey. It was very interesting to hear the viewpoints of these three scientists presented in the same session. New and exciting developments in the microchip and other liquid-phase areas were presented in following talks.

In parallel sessions, 33 talks were presented on new developments in gas chromatography. Most of these talks centered on high-speed separations and comprehensive multidimensional gas chromatography. A highlight of the meeting was a special presentation to Walter Jennings for his life-long contributions to capillary column gas chromatography.

A total of 170 posters were presented during the week. As always, the poster sessions comprised a key part of the meeting. They provided excellent opportunity for small group discussion in addition to dissemination of a tremendous amount of new information.

This special symposium volume contains some 40 papers out of 255 oral and poster presentations that were made in Las Vegas. While these papers do not cover all topics presented at the symposium, they convey the flavor of many new developments and trends in the field. Obviously, there continues to be much excitement in the field of micro-separations, and still much more research to be done.

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