



## Foreword

PREP 2003, the *16th International Symposium on Preparative and Process Chromatography*, took place from 29 June to 2 July 2003 at the Westin St. Francis Hotel in San Francisco, CA, USA. It was attended by over 350 participants. Forty-nine oral communications were presented and 70 poster contributions were displayed and discussed. In addition, 38 companies exhibited their equipments, materials, and products used in preparative and process chromatography. This exhibit offered the attendants an opportunity to get more familiar with recent technical developments. Five symposium workshops and 14 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. These dry statistics frame the circumstances under which the meeting took place but cannot convey the atmosphere of friendship and of intellectual challenge that surrounded the attendants.

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, equipments, 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 equipments and products exhibited at PREP 2003 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 Franco Spoldi (MODCOL), the members of the organizing committee of PREP 2003, in the review of the abstracts submitted and in the organization of the program was greatly appreciated. The sponsorship of the Washington Chromatography Discussion Group and the cooperation of the California Separation Science Society are gratefully acknowledged, as well as the support extended by Akzo Nobel/Eka Chemicals, CIPHERGEN Biosystems/BioSeptra Division, the J.T. Baker Division of Mallinckrodt Baker, 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 a number of the papers submitted during the symposium. These papers illustrate the nature and intensity of the research carried out in preparative chromatography. We hope that this issue 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 of Chromatography A* for their professionalism and dedication in producing this issue.

PREP 2004, the next meeting in the series, will take place in Baltimore, MD, 23–26 May 2004. It will be sponsored by the Washington Chromatography Discussion Group. It will be held in the Baltimore Inner Harbor Hotel and will have the same format as the previous symposia.

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