

Foreword

The 23rd International Symposium on the Separation and Analysis of Proteins, Peptides and Polynucleotides (ISPPP'03) was held in Delray Beach, FL, USA, from 9 to 12 November 2003. The meeting comprised 40 oral presentations in 10 lecture sessions, 85 poster presentations, and a highly interactive discussion session on whether or not separations were still needed for proteomics studies in the modern mass spectrometry era. The differing parties agreed to disagree. Seventeen instrument companies and consumables suppliers exhibited their products and provided the attendees with insights into state-of-the-art materials and equipment. Free seminars were presented by several exhibitors and were well-received by the attendees. Four tutorial workshops were presented by technical experts, including Professor Rainer Bischoff for Separation technologies for proteomics, Professor Alois Jungbauer for Preparative-scale separation of biomolecules, Dr. Gerard Rozing and Professor Tomoyoshi Soga for Electrically-driven separation of biomolecules and application in metabolomics, and Professor Guenter Allmaier for Bioseparation mass spectrometry. Several students were awarded student grants to attend the meeting sponsored by Elsevier and the California Separation Science Society (CaSSS). Seed sponsorship money was provided by the Society for the Advancement of Separations Technology.

The focus of the ISPPP symposia is on current advances in modern separation and characterization technologies for bioanalytical science. The 3-day 2003 Symposium explored such state-of-the-art topics as proteomics, multi-dimensional techniques, mass spectrometry advances, and evolving capillary and nano-column technologies. Practical applications

of a variety of analytical techniques provided valuable insights to many of the participants. The extensive poster sessions and the social program, which included evening receptions and a banquet, gave attendees ample time to interact with each other in non-formal, intimate settings for technology discussions and story-sharing. The ISPPP symposia have long emphasized these opportunities for personal conversations and exchanges of recent advances among the participants.

As Co-Chairmen of the conference, we wish to thank the Secretariat of the meeting, Janet Cunningham and Cheryl Popp of Barr Enterprises, for their many efforts in the planning of the meeting. Major Corporate sponsorship by Agilent Technologies and Eka Chemicals is especially appreciated for making possible the social programs at the meeting. We also acknowledge the many contributions provided by members of the Scientific Committee: Professor Milton T. W. Hearn (Australia), Professor Robert S. Hodges (USA), Professor Alois Jungbauer (Austria), Professor Klaus Unger (Germany), and Professor Richard Willson (USA). Finally, we thank the many speakers and participants at the meeting for their invaluable participation. We take this opportunity to invite them to attend future ISPPP symposia to continue their growth in knowledge and to share with others the most recent advances in the separation and characterization of biologically important molecules.

Newport, DE, USA
Philadelphia, PA, USA

Joe J. DeStefano
Mark R. Schure