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Foreword

Nonaqueous media have firmly established their place in capillary electromigration techniques, as the articles of this special issue demonstrate. The benefits of nonaqueous capillary electrophoresis are already well recognized. With the wide variety of solvent properties and solvent compositions available, the analyst can now find favourable conditions and tailored solutions for a great many more analytical problems. Appropriate selection of organic solvent and additives, however, not only requires detailed knowledge of their physicochemical properties but also knowledge of the analytes and of their interactions with additives. The scope of investigations carried out in nonaqueous media has now widened to cover both basic studies and a range of analytical applications. In addition to capillary electrophoresis, nonaqueous conditions are expanding the boundaries of enantioselective capillary electrochromatography.

As even a cursory look at current approaches and trends shows, capillary electromigration techniques in nonaqueous media are continuing to find new areas of application, the analysis of synthetic polymers being one example. Moreover, the power of the complementarity of nonaqueous conditions to aqueous ones for a full-fronted attack on complex separations is now being appreciated. Nonaqueous capillary electromigration techniques unquestionably hold great promise for the future.

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