

Foreword

PREP-2004, the 17th International Symposium on Preparative and Process Chromatography, took place from 23 to 26 May 2004 at the Marriott Waterfront Hotel, in Baltimore, MD. It was attended by about 400 participants. Fifty-one oral communications were presented and 79 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. Six symposium workshops and 15 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-2004 demonstrates the vigor of the research effort undergone in both academy and industry and the importance and rel-

evance 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), and Dr. Joan Newburger (R.W. Johnson Pharmaceutical Research Institute), the members of the organizing committee of PREP-2004, 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 is gratefully acknowledged, as well as the support extended by Eka Chemicals, Knauer, NOVASEP, Rohm and Haas Advanced Biosciences, TechniKrom, and Varian for the organization of the social program. It is a pleasure to thank Ms. Janet Cunningham of Barr Enterprises, Symposium/Exhibit Manager, whose organizational skills allowed a successful operation of the meeting.

The present issue of the *Journal of Chromatography* 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* for their professionalism and dedication in producing this issue.

PREP-2005, the next meeting in the series, will take place in Philadelphia, PA, 8–11 May 2005. It will be sponsored by the Washington Chromatography Discussion Group. It will be held in the Loew's Hotel and will have the same format as the previous symposia.

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