



## Preface

The *12th International Symposium on Advances and Applications of Chromatography in Industry* was held in Bratislava, Slovak Republic from 28 June to 1 July 2004. The Symposium Chairman was Professor Jozef Lehotay and the Symposium Secretary was Associate Professor Eva Benická. The organizers were the Slovak University of Technology—Faculty of Chemical and Food Technology, Comenius University—Faculty of Natural Sciences, Slovak Academy of Sciences—Polymer Institute, Slovak Chemical Society, Slovak Society for Industrial Chemistry at Slovnaft, all in Bratislava. The location of the Symposium was the Faculty of Chemical and Food Technology of the Slovak Technical University in Bratislava.

The scientific programme included 60 oral presentations dealing with the theory and practice of gas chromatography, liquid chromatography, supercritical fluid chromatography, electromigration methods, hyphenated chromatographic techniques and other methods (advances, new separation systems, identification of substances, optimization, new detection systems) and their applications in industry, biochemistry, biotechnology and environmental and trace analysis. In addition

over 130 posters provided space and time for direct discussions in small groups on all aspects of separation methods.

There were over 220 registered participants from various European countries, China and other overseas countries who contributed to the symposium with lectures, posters and discussions, many of whom submitted manuscripts for this special volume.

Valuable financial support was offered by the Ministry of Education, Slovak Republic and by an important number of sponsoring companies.

The social programme also contributed to creating a friendly atmosphere and establishing personal contact during the symposium.

The organizers would like to thank the speakers and the participants for their engagement, all sponsors for their support and the late Professor Zdeněk Deyl and Dr. Ivan Mikšík for their immense help in editing this symposium volume of the *Journal of Chromatography A*.

*Bratislava, Slovak Republic*

Jozef Lehotay