



Preface

On 1–3 September 2004, the *Second International Symposium on Comprehensive Multidimensional Chromatography* was held at the Renaissance Waverly Hotel in Atlanta, Georgia, USA. After the surprisingly successful first symposium in Volendam, the Netherlands, in March 2003 – the proceedings of which were published in volume 1019 of this journal – the enthusiastic community busily engaged in further developing the GC × GC field, decided to have another dedicated meeting. There were some seventy delegates, the majority coming from the United States and Canada (50), but many also from Europe (16) and from South America, Asia and Australia (4).

For newcomers to the field, a 1-day course was given by Dr. John Dimandja (Spelman College, Atlanta) who also acted as chairman of the symposium. During the meeting itself, 31 lectures were given and 20 posters presented. The main areas of interest were new instrumental developments, applications and, not surprisingly, software. During a forum discussion, users' needs regarding the essential tools required for an 'as-complete-as-possible' software package were surveyed. If such a package will become available in the near future, many analytical chemists will heave a sigh of relief, and experimental work will no doubt proceed much smoother. Finally, the group of Dr. Peter Haglund from Umea University (Umea, Sweden) received the John Phillips Award for the work done by Mikael Harju on the successful separation

of all 209 PCB congeners by means of GC × GC–μECD, a paper that was published in *Journal of Chromatography A* 1019 (2003) 111–126.

As is usual in the chromatographic community, there was – next to the 'scientific duties' – a very well organised social programme for the delegates. All in all, it was a most interesting and successful meeting, with a majority of the participants being active contributors and with many of the contributions dealing with more complicated applications and related topics than 2 years ago. In the end, more than 20 manuscripts were submitted for publication in the present special volume and, after due revision, condensation and further upgrading, almost all of these were accepted and are included in this volume.

Finally, as the editorial team of the Atlanta volume, his colleagues would like to thank John Dimandja for organising the meeting, René Vreuls would like to express his gratitude to Udo Brinkman for teaching him the ins and outs of the guest-editorial business, and all three of us thank the teams of authors for handing in their contributions and Elsevier Science for allowing us to use 'colour' on such a lavish scale and, as on the previous occasion, at no extra cost.

Amsterdam, The Netherlands

René J.J. Vreuls

Atlanta, GA, USA

John J.-M.D. Dimandja

Burgh-Haamstede, The Netherlands

Udo A.Th. Brinkman