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# Journal of Chromatography A

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## Preface

This special issue of Journal of Chromatography A contains small part of papers presented on the 18th International Symposium on Electro- and Liquid Phase-Separation Techniques which took place from August 28 to August 31, 2011 in the capital of Georgia, Tbilisi. The symposium was organized by the Institute of Physical and Analytical Chemistry, School of Exact and Natural Sciences, Tbilisi State University (Tbilisi, Georgia) and was dedicated to the 70th Anniversary of the Georgian National Academy of Sciences.

On Sunday, August 28 an one-day workshop on Basics and Method Development in HPLC and CE preceded the official opening of the symposium at 5.00 pm, local time. This was the first symposium after transforming this biannual mostly European symposium series to annual truly international series. The previous meeting of the ITP series took place in the last year in Baltimore (MD, USA). The symposium in Tbilisi was well attended by the scientists from over 30 countries.

After a short opening ceremony among others summarizing the history of the ITP series of international meetings, two opening plenary lectures were presented by Prof. Pier Giorgio Righetti (Milan, Italy) and Dr. Tivadar Farkas (Torrance, USA). This was followed by 3 whole days of densely packed scientific program containing 4 further plenary lectures by Prof. Ziad El Rassi (Stillwater, USA), Prof. Coral Barbas (Madrid, Spain), Dr. Salvatore Fanali (Rome, Italy) and Prof. Vadim Davankov (Moscow, Russia), 33 keynote lectures and 34 oral presentations. 10 oral presentations were selected by the scientific committee of the symposium for presentation in a young scientists session. For the first time in the history of this series of symposia the best presentation by a young scientist was awarded a cash award donated by the Institute of Physical and Analytical Chemistry, Tbilisi State University. This award went to Dr. Javier

Hernandez Borges from the University of La Laguna (La Laguna, Tenerife, Spain). Together with the above mentioned oral presentations 60 posters were presented at the symposium and the best poster was awarded an one-year subscription to the journal Electrophoresis (donated by Wiley-VCH, Weinheim, Germany). This award went to Dr. Petr Tuma from the Institute of Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology, Charles University in Prague (Czech Republic). Together with scientific lectures a vendor seminar about new instrumentations for separation science was given by Agilent Technologies who together with Elsevier was one of the major sponsors of the symposium.

In addition to the intense scientific program, a rich social program including a welcome reception on Sunday, August 28, an excursion to old downtown Tbilisi, a concert of Georgian music and dances and a dinner in a traditional Georgian restaurant on the high banks of the river Mtkvari (August 29), as well as an evening excursion to the ancient capital of Georgia Mzkheta, including visits to the 7th century Jvari (cross) Monastery, the 11th century Svetitskhoveli Cathedral and a conference banquet on August 30, were offered to the conference participants.

Thus, the 18th International Symposium on Electro- and Liquid Phase-Separation Techniques was one more successful meeting of the ITP series and we look forward to upcoming symposia in this series again in Baltimore (MD, USA, 2012), in Spain (2013), Brazil (2014) and Finland (2015).

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