

Journal of Chromatography, 376 (1986) 1–2
Biomedical Applications
Elsevier Science Publishers B.V., Amsterdam — Printed in The Netherlands

CHROMBIO. 2981

FOREWORD

The 6th International Symposium on Bioaffinity Chromatography and Related Techniques was held in Prague, Czechoslovakia, from September 1st to 6th, 1985. The Symposium, organized by the Institute of Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences in cooperation with the Chromatography Section of the Czechoslovak Chemical Society, provided a truly international forum to examine and discuss the current development of bioaffinity chromatography and other bioaffinity methods and their use in biology and biotechnology. A total of 225 scientists participated, from 25 countries of America, Europe, Asia and Africa. Research papers, covering many subdisciplines of bioaffinity principles and methods, were presented on the following topics: theory and recognition in bioaffinity chromatography (chairpersons I.M. Chaiken, Bethesda, MD, U.S.A., and V. Kostka, Prague, Czechoslovakia); solid supports and effect of coupling (chairpersons J. Lasch, Halle-Wittenberg, G.D.R., and J. Kucera, Prague, Czechoslovakia); electromigration processes (chairpersons J. Visser, Wageningen, The Netherlands, and M. Tichá, Prague, Czechoslovakia); application of bioaffinity techniques to gene engineering and cell technology (chairpersons J.M. Egly, Strasbourg, France, and J. Čoupek, Prague, Czechoslovakia); diagnostics and biomedical applications of affinity techniques (chairpersons T.C.J. Gribnau, Oss, The Netherlands, and J. Kás, Prague, Czechoslovakia); biomimetic reactive dyes in chromatographic separation and analysis (chairpersons C. Lowe, Cambridge, U.K., and J. Stamberg, Prague, Czechoslovakia); other current applications of bioaffinity methods (chairpersons J. Porath, Uppsala, Sweden, and L. Rexová, Bratislava, Czechoslovakia); and large scale applications of bioaffinity methods (chairpersons V.M. Stepanov, Moscow, U.S.S.R., and V. Kubánek, Prague, Czechoslovakia). Of the 48 lectures and 78 posters presented at the Symposium, selected papers have been collected in this special issue of the *Journal of Chromatography*.

Since bioaffinity chromatography represents only one of the many applications of biospecific interactions, all of which are particularly important in living organisms, it seemed reasonable to also include in this Symposium papers that are only marginally related to chromatography. In our opinion the inclusion of such papers is justified as the nature of biospecific interactions described here can be used in the future for a better understanding of some processes occurring in the body by making use of biospecific affinity chromatography.

The Symposium was marked by three important events signalling the past, present and future development of the bioaffinity field. The 75th anniversary was celebrated of the pioneering use of biorecognition principles by Professor E.

Starkenstein in Prague in his separation of amylase on immobilized starch. The Symposium also marked the presentation of the first Pierce Award in Affinity Chromatography to Professor Klaus Mosbach. The Pierce Award recognizes current contributions in the bioaffinity methods field.

Finally, the 1985 Symposium was the setting for the first regular meeting of the International Interest Group in Biorecognition Technology (IIGBT). The IIGBT, commissioned in Annapolis, MD, U.S.A., in June, 1983, at the *5th International Symposium on Affinity Chromatography and Biological Recognition*, and organized in the two-year period since then, is affiliated with the International Union of Biochemistry. The Interest Group has been established to stimulate, support and participate in local, regional and international scientific exchange in the multidisciplinary area of biomolecular recognition principles and their application in biology and biotechnology. The goal of bringing together scientists from many interrelated fields into a creative environment to share experiences and ideas was typified by the 1985 Prague Symposium.

We warmly thank Dr. Karel Macek, Editor of the *Journal of Chromatography, Biomedical Applications*, for his advice and assistance in publishing these Proceedings. We also gratefully acknowledge the help of the Advisory and Organizing Committees in preparing and organizing the Symposium and the many institutions and industrial companies who provided financial support.

J. TURKOVÁ
I.M. CHAIKEN
M.T.W. HEARN