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## Preface

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As is evident from the contents of this symposium issue, the *Analytical Separations 2000* symposium, held in Vaals, The Netherlands, and organised in celebration of the new millennium, was a very selective meeting both with regard to speakers and subjects discussed. In the biological and biomedical applications section, three generally important areas were reviewed in depth namely sample enrichment and matrix effects removing procedures, selective approaches to the isolation of biologically relevant compounds, and molecular imprinting, which is, of course, closely related to the former subject. In techniques most attention was paid to the relation between chromatographic and biological data, (multiple) hyphenation, miniaturisation and immuno-affinity-based separations.

In the area of applications attention was focussed on clinical and pharmaceutical practice of different modes of capillary electromigration separations; separation of biopolymers and their constituents

represented the other part of the applications discussed.

All in all, *Analytical Separations 2000* belonged to the small-size scientific get-togethers where close contacts are cemented, new friendships created and diverse opinions, particularly the controversial ones are solved pleasantly over a glass of wine. The surroundings were nice indeed. The idea to have a meeting in a castle in a quiet town with a frequent bus service towards the nearest big city just across the border (Aachen, Germany) was splendid. The local glass-blowing factory displayed pieces which were much to my liking, and by decorating my living room now, I will remember this both scientifically and socially successful meeting for quite a few years to come.

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