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Preface

ESBC 2000  
7<sup>th</sup> International Symposium of the European Society for  
Biochromatography

May 9–11, 2000, Nantes, France

Separation and characterization of biological and synthetic polymers

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The meeting was inaugurated by the Groupe Français de Biochromatographie in 1986, which became the European Society for Biochromatography (ESBC) in 1994. Following the last meeting organized at Saarbrücken (Germany) in 1997, this 7<sup>th</sup> Symposium of ESBC was devoted to new analytical progress mainly based on separation techniques and to characterizations concerning both natural and synthetic macromolecules. New trends in Biochromatography, Size Exclusion Chromatography, Mass Spectrometry, Capillary Electrophoresis, Centrifugal Partition Chromatography, Membrane based separations were presented and an exhibition of recent developments in instrumentation and materials for bioseparations brought recent information from manufacturers and distributors. New views in proteomics and molecular recognition were also introduced with their consequences in clinical analysis and immunology. Economic aspects have been considered in two presentations: the production of new materials for industrial antibodies extractions and purifications and the history of a young interna-

tional company founded by scientists involved in natural compounds analysis (by NMR) and now extending its activity at a remarkable rate. The meeting tried to bring together scientists concerned with macromolecular science and orientated either in biochemistry or in industrial applications of synthetic materials using very similar analytical methods but generally presented in different audiences.

ESBC 2000 attracted 110 participants with 40 lectures and 40 posters. Twelve companies participated in the exhibition of materials and instruments.

Finally, we would like to thank IFREMER (Institut Français de Recherches et d'Etudes Marines) which offered generous facilities for excellent meeting conditions.

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