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## Preface

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A number of philosophers have pondered about the ever-lasting development of matters and formulated some form of the original *panta rei* idea. Also the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Symposium on Separations in the BioSciences, SBS 2001, Prague, witnessed a number of changes over the years which were mainly formal but some merits changed as well. If we would have stuck to the original name, Biomedical Applications of Chromatography and Electrophoresis, we would not have had the second but the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. The change to the SBS acronym was proposed about five years ago by Professors Lingeman and De Jong, and anticipated a later change in the subtitle of *J. Chromatogr. B* which, starting from January 2002, involves Life Sciences rather than Biomedical Applications. There is not much difference between Life Sciences and BioSciences we believe.

Meetings like this one usually emphasize the fashionable, or if one likes it better, the hot topics of a particular area. In the past we have seen this series of meetings wander between such diverse areas as nucleic acids, enzymes, proteins and drugs. This time, at least in the plenary lectures, a number of technically oriented papers on new methodologies and miniaturization appeared along with proteomics and the more traditional areas like drugs, chiral separations, nucleotides, nucleosides and carbohydrates. The appearance of technically oriented papers in a meeting which involves a considerable propor-

tion of applications should undoubtedly be welcomed as it obviously helps to cut down the lag period between the purely analytical approach and the use of a particular methodology in practice. Overall there were 8 plenary lectures, 36 oral presentations and 92 posters by over 240 authors. The actual attendance of the meeting was naturally less ranging between 160–170 people. The geographical spread of the attendees covered 20 countries, mostly European ones, but some participants from Asian countries (Japan, Jordan) and from the USA (in spite of the tragic events in New York just before the meeting) attended. The participation of the Czechs and Slovaks was slightly higher than the participation of people from other countries; however, it was certainly not predominating and in this respect the meeting was quite satisfactorily balanced. A brief look at the authors of this Volume justifies (we believe) this statement.

The manuscripts of this meeting, which passed the refereeing procedure, are summarized in this volume. Any suggestions, criticism or hints for the improvement are welcomed by the Editors or, if organization aspects are involved, by the chief organizer of the next meeting, SBS 2003 in Moscow, Prof. Vadim Davankov.

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