



## Preface

This special symposium issue of the *Journal of Chromatography B* is dedicated to papers submitted to the 12th International Conference on Biopartitioning and Purification held in Vancouver, Canada in June 2003. It therefore continues a decade-long alliance between the *Journal of Chromatography* and the conference organizing committee to bring readers of the journal up to date on production-scale bio-partitioning and purification science by inviting the industrial and academic scientists and engineers who participated in the conference to publish their most recent findings on the merits and uses of all scalable methods for concentrating and isolating biologics. Established in 1979, the International Conference on Biopartitioning and Purification is a premier forum for research and development in production-scale purification and partitioning of cells, membranes and organelles, nucleic acids, proteins, peptides, and inorganics. Formerly known as the International Conference on Partitioning in Aqueous Two-Phase Systems, the conference was expanded in 2003 to showcase recent advances in all scalable methods for concentrating and isolating biologics, including surfactant-based separations, aqueous two-phase extraction, expanded-bed adsorption, membrane and hydrogel-based separation systems, and all forms of chromatography. Advances in plasmid, virus, and genomic DNA purification are also a focus of the conference, as are

new green-chemistry based technologies for purifying or extracting heavy metals and other inorganics from aqueous streams.

Organization of this conference required a tremendous effort on the part of many people. I am very grateful to the members of the conference organizing committee and to the session chairs for their help in creating an exciting technical program and in selecting papers to be included in this symposium edition of *Journal of Chromatography A*. I am also grateful to our corporate sponsors—Bayer Biotechnology, Genentech Inc., and Centocor Inc.—for their generosity in providing funds to support the conference banquet, the Per-Ake Albertsson award ceremony, and the awards for best oral presentation and poster presentation by a student. We wish to give special thanks to Rosemary Pura and her staff and UBC Conferences and Accommodations Office for their dedication throughout the two years of conference planning.

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