

Preface

The year 2003 marked the centenary celebration of the invention of chromatography. The tremendous impact of this field on the evolution of biosciences both in terms of the plethora of chromatographic techniques evolved therefrom and today in terms of proteomics, a milestone in biochemistry and pharmaceutical sciences has prompted us, as the most fitting way to organise the Eighth International Symposium on Polymer Designs for Bio Separation and Nanobiotechnology at Université de Technologie de Compiègne (UTC) from 27th to 29th November 2003. During the symposium, after an overview of the historical milestones in chromatography presented by both Swedish and the Franco-American partners, focus was the latest developments on both polymer designs and their chromatographic applications from macro to nanoscale.

The importance of chromatographic approaches and their impact and evolution into nanotechnologies was underlined by some brilliant lectures in this field. This meeting was highlighted by lectures from eminent experts from USA, Sweden, Israel, Denmark, Holland, Czech Republic, Germany, France, UK, Russia, Slovenia, Austria sharing their data.

Both industrial and academia members in almost equal numbers presented their latest works. This evidenced the sci-

entific and the economic momentum that this field is gaining.

In addition to the very informative lectures and posters on the latest developments in these areas, this conference also provided an ideal platform for informal exchange of experiences, much appreciated by the participants. The concurrent instrument display demonstrated state-of-the-art technological advances.

It is hoped that this special issue of *Journal of Chromatography*, will be a useful source of information to researchers in this field, and an additional stimulus for the work that remains to be done for a better understanding of the intriguing facets of life.

We would like to thank all the sponsors, participants and those who helped us to make this event a success.

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