

Foreword

The 4th International Symposium on Separations in the BioSciences (SBS) was held in Utrecht, the Netherlands, from September 18–21, 2005. After many symposia with the name “Biomedical Applications of Chromatography and Electrophoresis” the SBS series was started in 1999. The previous three symposia were held in Amsterdam, Prague and Moscow. The location was now the Educatorium of Utrecht University and the symposium was visited by about 170 participants from 26 countries. The symposium was preceded by five workshops on Sunday and the scientific program consisted of 34 lectures (including 13 keynote lectures presented by invited speakers) and 96 posters. Moreover, a large exhibition of equipment, services and literature with 20 companies was an integral part of the symposium. A special session was devoted to Zdenek Deyl, who passed away a few months before the symposium. For many years Zdenek was a very important person in separation science and he was one of the organizers of this symposium series.

Analytical chemistry and especially separation techniques play a central role in the biosciences because knowledge of complex systems can only be obtained by measurements. During the meeting attention was paid to fundamental aspects and various application fields as (bio)analysis of drugs and metabolites, clinical and toxicological analysis, characterization of biopoly-

mers and also new areas as proteomics and metabolomics. It was clearly shown that separation science is more important than ever and that a powerful separation is often still “the heart” of systems for biomedical analysis. The symposium had a stimulating sphere and optimum conditions for a fruitful exchange of ideas. Some of the presentations of the meeting are published as papers in this issue and demonstrate the variety of topics of the lectures and posters.

The high point of the social program was a visit to the National Museum from Musical Clock to Street Organ. The music of the small and large instruments made this visit very informal and relaxed. Also during the opening of the symposium a street organ provided a typical Dutch ambiance.

Finally, I would like to thank the members of the organizing committee for all their efforts and efficient cooperation. I would also like to mention the important support of Utrecht University’s Congress Office. Wolfgang Lindner has edited this issue and – as expected – did so conscientiously and with dedication.

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