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### Foreword

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## Foreword

This is the sixth special issue on thin layer chromatography (TLC) that we have guest edited by invitation of the editor, Dr. Jack Cazes, beginning in 1999. We are again fortunate to have received contributions from a select group of internationally recognized experts in the field for this issue.

Research in the theory, techniques, instrumentation, and applications of TLC and high performance TLC (HPTLC) for separation and qualitative and quantitative analysis of virtually all compound classes in a great variety of sample matrices continues at a rapid pace. This is confirmed in the latest biennial review of planar chromatography, written by J. Sherma and published in the June 2004 *Fundamental Reviews* issue of the ACS journal *Analytical Chemistry*.

The papers in this Special Issue report research in some of the most important current areas of TLC. The following topics are included: study of lateral interactions of carboxylic acids on cellulose layers (Kaczmarski et al.); interaction between cholesterol and non-ionic surfactants studied by reversed phase (RP) TLC on cholesterol-impregnated layers (Forgacs et al.); comparison of TLC and HPTLC plates with standard and brilliant UV indicator for analysis of four model pharmaceutical compounds with detection by fluorescence quenching (Sullivan and Sherma); automatic selection of mobile phases for silica TLC of organic compounds (Palamarev et al.); densitometric comparison of the performance of normal and sandwich development chambers (Sajewicz et al.); one- and two-dimensional separation of bile acids on silica (Pyka and Dolowy); analysis of neutral lipids in snail conditioned water and feces of infected snails (Schneck et al.); densitometric determination of bromhexine hydrochloride in pharmaceuticals (Sumarlik and Indrayanto); RP-TLC analysis of new oral anti-diabetics (Gumieniczek et al.); estimation of enrofloxacin and ciprofloxacin (new fluoroquinolone anti-

microbial agents) by TLC with detection by direct bioautography (Choma et al.); HPTLC methods for quality control of *Stephania tetrandra* (Blatter and Reich); determination of the mycotoxin sterigmatocystin in cereals using fluorescence detection by simple heating on amino-bonded layers without application of a reagent (Stroka et al.); and purification and characterization of corrinoid compounds (including vitamin B12) from fish (Watanabe et al.). The prominence of TLC for the analysis of animal and human drugs is highlighted by the inclusion of four papers in this area. One of these describes analysis of a botanical drug (*S. tetrandra*), a class of compounds for which TLC analysis should become increasingly important as governmental regulation efforts increase.

The activity in TLC research on a worldwide basis is shown by the locations of the laboratories of the authors of these papers, namely, Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic, United States, Bulgaria, Indonesia, Switzerland, Belgium, Slovakia, and Germany.

We will begin to solicit papers in the autumn of 2004 for the 2005 special issue on TLC that we will guest edit for this Journal. We invite comments on our past special issue and this current one, as well as suggestions for topics and contributors for the next issue.

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*Guest Editors, Thin Layer Chromatography*  
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