

## Editorial

At the 40th Annual Pittsburgh Conference and Exposition held in Atlanta, Georgia, on 6–10 March 1989, the Journal was honored by an invitation to organize a special symposium session on “Advances in Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Analysis”. This coincided with the establishment of the North American editorial office in Lawrence, Kansas. This symposium was conceived to cover several important developments in pharmaceutical and biomedical analysis and was presented by recognized experts in the respective disciplines. A second symposium on “Bioanalytical Approaches to Understanding Xenobiotic Metabolism” followed this session. The primary focus of the second symposium was the utilization of a range of analytical techniques for probing the metabolism of xenobiotics. This special issue brings together the majority of the papers presented at the two symposia and is supplemented by invited papers on related techniques that were presented at parallel sessions of the conference.

The first symposium covered a wide range of recent developments in pharmaceutical and biomedical analysis, including computer-aided multichannel detectors, chiral separations,

bioanalysis of antineoplastics and clinical drug analysis. The second symposium included papers describing the variety of analytical techniques that are employed in the study of xenobiotic metabolism, including electrochemical methods, mass spectrometry, gas chromatography with mass spectrometric detection, liquid chromatography with radiochemical detection, fluorescence line-narrowing spectrometry and nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy.

Although the Pittsburgh Conference has enjoyed a distinguished history of achievement in the promotion of the analytical sciences for the past 40 years, it is rare for a group of papers on related themes to be brought together in a single proceedings volume. It is therefore a particular pleasure to publish the present symposium issue as a permanent record of the high quality of science presented in Atlanta. It is our intention to bring to our readers reports of similar high quality meetings organized by professional bodies within North America and elsewhere in the scientific world.

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