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# Editorial

This *Special Issue* focuses on papers concerned with the routine application of CE to the analysis of pharmaceuticals. The application areas selected reflect the established range of CE analyses, including main component assay, determination of drug-related impurities, and identification of solutes together with confirmation of identity. The authors are drawn from a range of academic institutions and industrial laboratories – confirming that there is still a large body of research on-going in Universities and industry worldwide, notwithstanding the fact that the use of CE is now becoming established as a routine strategy for problem solving in many laboratories. The focus of research in CE encompasses studies on the mechanisms of separation, methods of sample introduction, validation issues and also includes the optimisation of methods for regular industrial and research-related applications.

The papers in this *Special Issue* cover a broad range of drug classes, including cephalosporins, tetracyclines, vitamins and pharmaceuticals still in the process of development. Of particluar note is a paper which confirms successful submission of a CE method to the Regulatory Authorities, endorsing the earlier observations by one of these Editors [KDA in *LC–GC Magazine*, *8* (1) (1995) 40–46] that CE methods in appropriately validated form are acceptable in regulatory submissions.

It is our belief that the papers selected for this *Special Issue* represent a milestone in the recognition of the fact that well controlled CE and related methods can be successfully validated in the industrial environment, to provide high quality data with appropriate figures of merit, including accuracy, precision and where necessary, sensitivity. These methods can be adapted to support or supplement regular HPLC methods. It is clear from current statistics that the number of routine CE methods appearing both in the research literature and in regulatory submissions will continue to increase in future years.

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