

## Foreword

*The Eleventh International Symposium on Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Analysis (PBA 2000)* was held from 14 to 18 May 2000 in the city of Basel, Switzerland. This meeting followed many highly successful Symposia, the most recent ones being held in Washington, D.C., USA (1999), Brussels, Belgium (1998), Orlando, FL, USA (1997) and Osaka, Japan (1996). The proceedings of these meetings have all been published in the *Journal of Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Analysis*.

PBA 2000 took place in the modern Convention Centre, located in the heart of Basel. The city of Basel lies at the meeting point of three countries, France, Germany and Switzerland, on the banks of the Upper Rhine. Basel, which is one of the most important centres of finance in Switzerland, is also well known for its pharmaceutical and chemical industry, represented by some major companies, making it a most appropriate venue for a meeting of the PBA series. Basel has a long historical background. It was founded in the first century B.C. and was first mentioned as «Basilea» in Roman historical accounts in 374 A.C.

During several centuries Basel has belonged to the Holy German Empire but in the 14th century it freed itself from the sovereignty of a Prince-Bishop, although keeping the Bishop's staff in its coat of arms. In the 15<sup>th</sup> century the city of Basel acquired international status by hosting a Pope's Council and founding its own University. Basel joined the Helvetic Confederation in 1501.

The Symposium Organizers, under the co-chairmanship of Dr. Eric Francotte (Novartis Pharma, Basel, Switzerland) and Professor Wolfgang Lindner (University of Vienna, Austria) succeeded in establishing an excellent Symposium with a high

quality and nicely balanced scientific programme, comprising 82 lectures and more than 380 poster presentations, half-day short courses and company presentations during luncheon seminars. The number of delegates attending was more than 500 from all over the world. The main topics highlighted during this meeting were the extended potential of mass spectrometry as a highly sensitive and selective detection method in bioanalysis, the emerging analytical technologies with special emphasis on micro-separation techniques and the opportunities, challenges, risks and benefits of high throughput analysis. The social programme was also highly enjoyable, including a very nice reception offered by the government of the city of Basel, in the Historical Museum of Basel, located in the magnificent Barfüsser Kirche, and a delicious dinner at Restaurant Safran Zunft.

It is my privilege, as one of the Editors of the *Journal of Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Analysis*, to publish the papers presented at this successful Basel meeting. The next Symposium in this series (PBA '01) will be held in Monterey, CA, in May 2001 under the chairmanship of Dr. Stephen G. Weber. This meeting will offer again a good opportunity to meet many of our international friends and colleagues and to have highly stimulating discussions.

Jacques Crommen  
*Department of  
Analytical Pharmaceutical Chemistry,  
Institute of Pharmacy,  
University of Liege,  
Belgium*