



Preface

Solid phase assay systems are currently ranged among the most sensitive and accurate laboratory methods that allow rapid and reliable determinations. Developed solid phase methodologies have a considerable spectrum of applications, such as the analysis of small sized compounds, large biomolecules, cells as well as viral and bacterial antigens and antibodies present in biologic matrices. Immunoassays represent a significant category of solid phase assays and are nowadays used in the daily laboratory practice for diagnosis of diseases, infections, drug levels and monitoring of patient health. The high sensitivity, easy of implementation and applicability of solid phase assays stimulated the scientific interest in the area. As a result, during the last years, significant improvements in solid phase supports, miniaturization, automation and detection of solid phase systems have been achieved.

This special issue of *Journal of Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Analysis* is dedicated to the solid phase assays used for the analysis of small and large sized molecules with biopharmaceutical importance. Particular emphasis is given to the recent developments in solid phase assays and immunoassays as well as in detection methods and immunoaffinity solid phase extraction. Applications to the area of proteins, glycoconjugates, enzymes, serological detection of

viral and bacterial infections and biochemical markers are also included. A considerable effort to cover the most important aspects of the field has been made and this was indeed realized thanks to the enthusiastic contribution of well-known scientists in the field.

I wish to thank all the authors of the publications for their readiness and cooperation in this issue, which we hope will have a strong impact in the area of solid phase assays in pharmaceutical and biomedical analysis. I would also like to thank the former Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Analysis*, Dr. Henk Lingeman, for his willingness to entrust me with the preparation of this special issue as well as the new editors of the journal for their unlimited collaboration in all steps necessary to prepare this issue. From my personal point of vantage, I am thankful and amply rewarded for extending my knowledge on the field during the process of reading and editing the articles.

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