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### Preface

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## PREFACE

This volume contains selected papers presented at the 28th Annual International Symposium on Environmental Analytical Chemistry (ISEAC 28) held in Geneva, Switzerland on 1–5 March 1998. The event was organized by the International Association of Environmental Analytical Chemistry (IAEAC) in collaboration with the University of Geneva and the Service du Chimiste Cantonal du Canton de Genève. Since 1971, with the stimulation of the late Prof. Dr. Roland Frei, the IAEAC has organized alternatively in Europe in the even years and in the United States in the odd years such an International Symposium.

The aim of ISEAC 28 was to give exposure to analytical chemists, the state-of-the-art in research and development in the field of environmental analytical chemistry and to bring together, from the greatest number of countries, the academic and industrial Communities interested in this field.

The participants had the opportunity to get an overview of the latest developments and achievements in a wide range of modern analytical techniques and to acquaint with researchers working in fields sometimes outside their own special field. Invited lectures highlighted the most significant achievements and applications in fields such as: new developments in instrumental techniques, biochemical detections, speciation, sensors and in situ measurements, chiral separations, nanotechnology and quality assurance. Also about 150 contributed papers reflected the wide range of activity of analytical chemists interested in environmental analysis. We would like to point out the striking progress in this field for example : antibiotics in the aquatic environment, chemical imaging for environmental analysis, new probe and microsensor for in-situ trace element profiling in water, application of new sensors and electrodes for specific analytical problems, low-cost systems for environmental analysis, new sorbents for extractions and separations.

233 scientific delegates from 38 countries attended the Symposium from Eastern Europe and developing countries. Reduced registration fees were offered to delegates from Eastern Europe and developing countries to facilitate their participation. This offer was made possible through the financial support from the following Swiss Institutions: the Service des Affaires Régionales, Européennes et

de la Cooperation au Developpement de la République et Canton de Genève, the Swiss National Science Foundation and the Swiss Academy of Sciences.

This Preface offers me a good opportunity to thank, once more, all those, individuals and Institutions, whose efforts contributed to the success of the Symposium. We are particularly indebted for the logistic and financial support given by the Department of Inorganic, Analytical and Applied Chemistry (CHIAM) of the University of Geneva during the two years spent to organize ISEAC 28, which was invaluable. I greatly acknowledge this.

Finally, I am also grateful to all the attendants of the Symposium for making ISEAC 28 a very friendly and happy event.

Prof. Dr. Werner Haerdi  
Chairman of the Symposium  
University of Geneva