

Preface

The *Fourth European Meeting of the Groupe Français de Bio-Chromatographie (G.F.B.C.)*, sponsored by the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Regional Committee of Languedoc-Rousillon, was held from May 12 to May 14, 1992 at La Grande Motte (Hérault, France), a lovely seaside resort on the Mediterranean Sea. This marvellous cocktail of sea, sun and science attracted prominent researchers not only from Europe, but also from the United States and Australia. Because of its size, and informal and friendly atmosphere, this meeting provided an ideal opportunity for the exchange of ideas and experiences. This was particularly appreciated by the participants.

The essential themes of the previous meetings, highlighted by an internationally renowned panel of invited speakers, were reinforced and extended. The programme was composed of several topics, dealing with new types of supports for biochromatography, such as the tentacle-type ion exchangers, high-resolution methods for the preparation, isolation and purification of recombinant proteins, and the chromatographic behaviour of biomolecules and its relevance to protein structure. This meeting also provided an opportunity for users and manufacturers of chromatographic equipment to discuss the limitations and potential for improvement of existing equipment.

We would like to thank all the speakers and participants of poster sessions for their thought-provoking presentations, as well as all the attendees for making this meeting a success.

A noteworthy event of this *Fourth Meeting of the G.F.B.C.* was that the French Scientific Society, founded in 1986 by Dr. Jean-Pierre Dandeu, became a European Society for Bio-Chromatography (E.S.B.C.), presided over by Professor Daniel Muller and Professor Jerker Porath as the Honorary President.

The contents of this Special Issue are a selection of papers which we hope will be a useful source of information to researchers in this rapidly expanding field and a stimulus for joining the E.S.B.C.

We would also like to acknowledge the Organizing and Scientific Committees for their excellent work, and particularly Mrs. Michele Lux and Mrs. Geneviève Allain for their excellent secretarial help. Elsevier Science Publishers are thanked for their kind assistance and longstanding professionalism in preparing the proceedings.

The next meeting of the European Society for Bio-Chromatography will be held in 1994 in Nancy (France), the beautiful capital of Lorraine.

Paris (France)

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