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### A New Addition for the 90's

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## **EDITORIAL**

### **A New Addition for the 90's**

As the field of liquid chromatography matures, its applications have increasingly expanded into a growing number of biomedical and clinical areas. At the same time, each of these special areas would place unique emphasis and demand on methodologies, perhaps resulting in an imaginary boundary. It is in parallel with these trends that the Journal of Liquid Chromatography Clinical Analyses (JLCCA) comes into being. However, with the emphasis of unified chromatography, the boundaries between liquid chromatography, gas liquid chromatography and supercritical fluid chromatography are deservedly de-emphasized. With these evolving and seemingly contradicting demands, this focused addition of JLCCA would attempt to concentrate on the use of liquid chromatography for clinical analysis of endogeneous and exogeneous compounds such as drugs and metabolites. Within the confine of this new addition to be published quarterly, original articles and succinct reviews will be the main focus. This Inaugural Issue is representative, with a wide spectrum composed of original and review articles encompassing methodologies from planar chromatography - thin layer chromatography for chiral separation, the applications of LC/EC, conventional liquid chromatography for both popular and "esoteric" drugs, and the preliminary studies in exploring the applications of supercritical fluid chromatography.

As the Inaugural Issue is being assembled, the prospect of increasing applications of liquid chromatography and multimodal/multidimensional separation is gathering momentum. Future applications would likely center around chiral separations with mobile phase additives or

stationary phases, multidimensional/multimodal analysis for enhanced sample preparation and analysis, increasing applications of off-line or on-line solid-phase extraction methodologies, Direct-Sample analysis Methodologies for limited size applications such as neonatal and pediatric drug monitoring and reduced personnel exposure, and analysis of "test drugs" such as debrisoquine and caffeine for organ function/drug metabolism studies for enhanced patient care through further understanding of pharmacokinetics and phramacogenetics. To this list, many more unique applications will be added. Indeed, on the threshold of a New Decade, it is time to re-affirm the singular, and yet versatile contributions by Liquid Chromatography! ! !