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Preface

Karin D. Caldwell

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Preface

Field-flow fractionation (FFF) techniques are currently being studied in an increasing number of laboratories both in and out of the United States. As a reflection on this trend, it was felt appropriate to publish a second Special Topics issue of Separation Science and Technology devoted exclusively to FFF.

The present issue includes the theoretical description of a new subtechnique with potential for an exceptionally high mass resolution, as well as a first demonstration of retention in a magnetic FFF device. Refinements of the more mature thermal FFF technique have been made in two contributions. First, a modified retention equation has been developed to account for the effects of nonuniform viscosity across the channel in the presence of a thermal gradient. In the second a low angle light-scattering detector is operated on line with the FFF column to obviate the need for standard curves in the analysis of polymer molecular weights. The final article in this issue represents an evaluation of different seal designs for the sedimentation FFF instrumentation in an effort to minimize band broadening.

This series of articles is designed to inform both those already familiar with the FFF concept and those in need of new analytical tools.

Karin D. Caldwell
Special Issue Editor