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Foreword

From 4 to 7 June 2002 the Xth International Symposium on Luminescence Spectrometry—Detection Techniques in Flowing Streams—Quality Assurance and Applied Analysis (ISLS 2002) was held in Granada, Spain. This city, one of the major provincial capitals of Andalucía in southern Spain, shows a long tradition as a university city, retaining the essence of the past centuries of their Moorish and Jewish history.

This event followed the previous successful meetings held in Ghent (Belgium, 1984–1993), Bruges (Belgium, 1994), Nice (France, 1996), Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (Spain, 1998) and Montpellier (France, 2000). The goal of this conference was to provide a forum for the discussion of new developments in luminescence techniques (fluorescence, bio- and chemiluminescence, electro(chemi)luminescence, phosphorescence, and combinations with chromatography, capillary electrophoresis or immunoassay) applied to clinical, chemical, biochemical, pharmaceutical, toxicological, food and environmental analysis, drug quality control and related areas.

The Symposium was attended by ca. 200 participants from 25 countries. The scientific program comprised a 1-day short course on the topic "Overview on Capillary Electrophoresis: Recent Trends and Applications" by Dr. Norberto A. Guzman (USA), and two sessions devoted to fluorescence and phosphorescence (session 1) and chemiluminescence, bioluminescence, luminescent detection in separational techniques, chemometrics and quality assurance (session 2), comprising 10 lectures, 20 oral presentations and 200 poster presentations. Topics of interest such as application of fluorescent techniques as detection system in the development of microchips for molecular

and proteomic analysis by capillary electrophoresis, applications of bioluminescent and biofluorescent microbiological organisms to the analysis of toxicity, new reagents and derivatizing agents for fluorescence and chemiluminescence, new developments in luminescent sensors, different methodologies for a more sensitive luminescence detection in liquid separations, synthesis and applications of nanoparticles in luminescence analysis, development and applications of chemiluminescence in flow injection immunoassay and quality assurance in luminescent analysis, etc., included most of the innovative research aspects reported at the meeting. The papers included in this issue represent a sampling of over 230 contributions presented at the conference.

The meeting was sponsored by the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Andalucía Government, the City Hall and the Provincial Government, the Spanish Society of Analytical Chemistry (SEQA), the Faculty of Sciences and the University of Granada, and some companies, mainly Puleva Food, S.L.

I would like to take advantage of this opportunity to express my gratitude towards all the participants, to Professor W. Baeyens (Ghent University, Belgium), former organizer of this series, to the Scientific Committee Members, and specially to acknowledge the efforts of all the members of the Organizing Committee, who were responsible for the efficient running and for reaching this special atmosphere not only during the scientific activities but also on the occasion of the social program, which allowed the participants to enjoy Granada and its wonderful places.

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Finally, I encourage all of you to attend the XI International Symposium on Luminescence Spectrometry (ISLS 2004), which will be held in 2004 in Beijing (China), and organized by Professor Xinrong Zhang (Tsinghua University, Beijing).

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