

## Foreword<sup>☆</sup>

Now that the Genome Project has been successfully completed, scientific attention has shifted to the Proteome, Peptidome and Glycome (in addition to other modern day terms/projects ending in –ome, e.g. the Metabolome, etc.). Undoubtedly, these research areas are dominant in contemporary science and new highly efficient, selective and sensitive analytical methods will need to be developed for use in these fields of research. Capillary electromigration techniques have already demonstrated their possibilities in the Genome Project and are among today's most promising analytical techniques. Many techniques have been developed that exploit the principles of these methods, incorporating miniaturization and high levels of automation.

For the above-mentioned reasons, the scientific theme of this Special Volume is the analysis of proteins, peptides and glycanes by capillary (electromigration) techniques. The Volume provides an overview of and describes recent new developments in capillary electromigration techniques: capillary zone electrophoresis, capillary isoelectric focusing, micellar electrokinetic chromatography and capillary electrochromatography (incl. monoliths), as well as some interesting applications of these techniques in the analysis of proteins, peptides, glycoproteins (and glycopeptides) and glycanes. Attention is also paid to miniaturization (chip electrophoresis).

No doubt this theme is highly interesting and fashionable, but the underlying theme of this Special Volume is a memorial to Professor Zdenek Deyl, who was involved in the topic of this volume for many years until he regretfully died in early 2005. I think that many analytical scientists remember his long-term editorial work for the *Journal of Chromatography*. In this respect, I would like to specifically mention his substantial work on the Bibliography Section (the most comprehensive work in the bibliography of separation sciences of the “pre-computer age”) as well as his detailed and dedicated work on the “Symposium Volumes” and Special Volumes devoted to specialized topics.

A detailed obituary for Professor Deyl was published earlier in *J. Chromatogr. A* 1069 (2005) 153–154 and *J. Chromatogr. B* 819 (2005) 1–2. Nevertheless, I would like to share with you some of my personal memories of Zdenek Deyl. I started my scientific work at Zdenek's laboratory as a Ph.D. student twenty years ago and remember him as being highly respected and admired by his colleagues and friends. He was not only respected because of his knowledge but also because of his open-hearted personality and his readiness to help anyone in trouble. His mind was open to any new and progressive ideas and he did not have the narrow view of a specialist/scientist working within his small field. But what exactly was his field? He was a biochemist (the secretary of the large XIVth International Congress of Biochemistry held in 1984, for example), physiologist and analytical chemist. Indeed he was also a teacher. In addition, after the Velvet Revolution in the Czech Republic in 1989, he also acted as Director of the Department for International Affairs at the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. To list all of his functions (participation in the Editorial Boards of various journals, committees of Symposia, etc.) would simply take up too many pages. The same goes for his scientific projects, papers, books, editorial work and supervision of students.

His interests were very broad, as was his knowledge. He used to work on many topics at the same time – it was normal for his mind. Thinking back to the first year of my doctoral study, I remember him walking over to my table and asking me “Ivan, what are you doing now?” I straightened and spilled out a short resume of my work. Zdenek wisely nodded and said “Fine, it looks like your work is going smoothly. So, I think you can develop artificial blood in your spare time”. To my surprise he put a tall column of reprints on the table and contentedly went away. It was typical of Zdenek – he had so many ideas, so many projects; it wasn't easy to keep up with his pace and ideas. By the way – regretfully, I still haven't developed artificial blood.

I think back to our regular morning meetings and discussions about scientific (and personal) problems over a cup of coffee.

One year after his death I have to say that I still miss him – I do not only miss his scientific erudition, but also his humanity and sympathy.

It was my pleasure to compile this Special Volume dedicated to Zdenek. Frankly, I have to say that I had one main problem in its preparation – Zdenek had very many friends in the scien-

<sup>☆</sup> This paper is part of a special volume entitled “Analysis of proteins, peptides and glycanes by capillary (electromigration) techniques”, dedicated to Zdenek Deyl, guest edited by I. Miksik.

tific community and so many of them could have participated in this project in his memory. Regretfully, the scope of this Volume is limited to the main topic of Zdenek's final work – the separation of peptides and proteins by capillary electromigration techniques. For this reason, many of his close friends were omitted. I would like to apologize to them, and hope that we will

all remember Zdenek not only as we read this Volume but also in our daily work.

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Available online 3 May 2006