Foreword

The Conferentia Chemometrica '97 (CC '97) was held in Budapest, Hungary, from 21–23 August 1997. Over 80 chemometricians from 23 countries attended and 72 presentations (oral and poster) were given, 12 of which were invited lectures.

Developments covered the following fields:

Multivariate Techniques
  - Principal component analysis and Factor analysis
  - Cluster analysis and Discriminant analysis
  - Principal Component Regression
  - Partial least squares
  - Pattern recognition
  - Artificial Neural Networks
  - Genetic algorithms

Quantitative Structure–Activity Relationships
  - Quantitative Structure–Activity Relationships, general
  - Topological indices, descriptors
  - Quantitative Structure-(Chromatographic) Retention Relationships
  - Quantumchemical calculations, Kinetics

Classical Chemometrics
  - Information theory
  - Hypothesis testing
  - Regression, fitting equations to data
  - Error surface, ANOVA
  - Experimental design
  - Applications (chromatography)
  - Validation

Software
  - Computer programs
  - Computer codes
  - Comparisons, applications
  - Interfaces

Conferentia Chemometrica '97 was organised originally as a regional conference in Central Europe, but even a number of the invited lecturers came from outside this region (USA, Sweden, The Netherlands, Norway). The authors and co-authors of the presentations represented 23 countries including Brazil, Canada and Russia.

A number of regional conferences have been held in the field of chemometrics earlier, such as in Brno, and in different places in Germany (COMPANA). Also a Hungarian conference series entitled Chemometrics has been organised annually since 1983. One day generally included international participation.

Thanks are due to the members of the Scientific Committee of CC '97: J.T. Clerc (Bern, Switzerland), P. Geladi (Umeå, Sweden), J. Havel (Brno, Czech Republic), G. Kateman (Nijmegen, The Netherlands), O.M. Kvalheim (Bergen, Norway), D.L. Massart (Brussels, Belgium), M. Matherny (Kosice, Slovakia), K. Varmuza (Vienna, Austria), G. Veress (Veszprém, Hungary), W. Wegscheider (Graz, Austria) and the local Organising Committee: P. Szepesváry, Chairman (Budapest), K. Héberger (Budapest), Gy. Horvai (Budapest), S. Kemény (Budapest), A. Lengyel (Miskolc), I. Raisz (Miskolc) and R. Rajkó (Szeged).

Special appreciation is due to Professor D.L. Massart (Brussels, Belgium) and Professor J. Inczédy (Veszprém, Hungary), as the Editors of this Proceedings volume for their invaluable and conscientious contributions to ensuring publication of the most important results of Conferentia Chemometrica '97. Special thanks are also due to the Hungarian Chemical Society and the Hungarian Academy of Sciences for financial support.

Conferentia Chemometrica '97 can be considered a success, despite the fact that the Scandinavian

Chemometrics Conference was held in the same week. The participants were thus divided between the two conferences. Unfortunately, the International Chemometrics Society, directed previously by Professor G. Kateman, is not very active now. This society might co-ordinate, among other things, the date and venue of the chemometric events.

It is my sad duty to remember here Professor Jean Thomas Clerc, who was one of the organisers and active participants of Conferentia Chemometrica '97. Professor Clerc was an outstanding expert in the field of chemometrics, taking part in the international meetings and collaborations concerned with chemo-metrics from the very beginning of the discipline. All colleagues who met him at conferences will surely remember him and his scientific contributions for a long time.

We look forward to seeing you in Brno, Czech Republic, on 29th August–2nd September 1999, where the next chemometrics conference will be held under the chairmanship of Professor M. Holik of the University of Brno.

T.L. Pap
Secretary of the Conferentia Chemometrica '97
(Veszprém, Hungary)