

## Preface to SSC7 proceedings

On 19–23 August 2001 the 7th Scandinavian Symposium on Chemometrics was held in the domicile of the Danish Society of Engineers in Copenhagen. This special issue of *Journal of Chemometrics* contains the peer-reviewed papers submitted for the proceedings of SSC7. In total, 93 abstracts were accepted for either oral or poster presentation and 196 researchers from 17 different countries, covering most of Europe, Russia, and North and South America, participated. They all contributed to a diversified scientific programme including lectures and posters as well as discussions on these. For further information please see the thorough Meeting Report of the symposium made by Frans van den Berg (SSC7: 7th Scandinavian Symposium on Chemometrics, Copenhagen, Denmark, 19–23 August 2001. *J. Chemometrics* 2002; 16: 161–163).

The symposium was the seventh of the Scandinavian Symposia, but we could also consider it as the first one in this century and even in this multivariate millennium. It would certainly be interesting to be a fly on the wall at the 57th Scandinavian Symposium on Chemometrics in the year 2101 or at the 507th Scandinavian Symposium on Chemometrics in the year 3001, the first one in the next millennium. Will they still discuss PLS versus other regression methods and what are the higher-order advantages of multiway methods? Will chemometrics still be a scientific research area or will it just be something that you always do when you do research and development? In trying to predict the future, it can be sensible to look at the past. We cannot look back 1000 years within chemometrics, but we can look back 100 years. In Karl

Pearson's paper 'On lines and planes of closest fit to systems of points in space' (*Philos. Mag.* 1901; 2: 559–572) the basis for the development of the method of principal component analysis is described. This 100-year-old paper is fascinating to read, especially bearing in mind how much PCA has been studied in theoretical and applied chemometrics. Pearson would probably have been astonished to see the impact of his work facilitated by the development of the modern computer. Hopefully, researchers 100 years from now will benefit from the research presented in the SSC7 Proceedings.

I would like to thank the people that made the symposium possible through their hard work: Birgitte Magner-Egeberg (Secretary at the Danish Society of Engineers), Claus Andersson, Carsten Ridder, Kay Heydorn, Agnar Höskuldsson, Ivan Christensen, Joan G. Pedersen and Tina Moe. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the sponsors, H. Lundbeck, Radiometer Medical, Foss Electric, the Danish Meat Research Institute and the City of Copenhagen, for giving us the possibility to make the symposium a success regarding the social arrangements. Finally, I want to thank to all participants, lecturers and poster presenters for contributing to SSC7, Gilda Kischinovsky for assistance in preparing the proceedings, and especially the referees for their thorough reviews. I hope you will enjoy this special issue of *Journal of Chemometrics* which contains 19 high-quality research contributions.

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