Introducing the Inaugural *Chromatographia* Virtual Issue: Macromolecular Separations

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In contradistinction to their small-molecule counterparts, macromolecular separations are generally concerned less with issues of peak capacity and more with the determination of structure–property relations. The polymeric analytes themselves can possess dispersities along more than one physico-chemical dimension having, e.g., broad molar mass distributions as well as broad chemical composition and/or branching distributions. Multi-detector size-based separations, be they column or channel based, remain the preferred methods to obtain many of these relations.

Recently, all our subscribers received an e-mail (hopefully!) announcing the inaugural virtual issue of the journal. The topic of this virtual issue is macromolecular separation science. Highlighted therein are reviews and original papers published in the journal during the last 2 calendar years. Should you have missed this e-mail, or should our e-mailing have (unforgivably) missed you, our readers can still find out about some of the diverse work published in *Chromatographia* in 2016 and 2017 in the area of polymer chromatography through the eight papers constituting the virtual issue [1–8].

These publications exemplify the range of analytical techniques applicable to macromolecular separations, via original papers dealing with inverse gas chromatography [1], high-temperature multi-detector size-exclusion chromatography (SEC) [4], mass spectrometry and ion mobility separation [3], and asymmetric flow field-flow fractionation [5]; and in reviews dealing with off-line refractometry [7] and with SEC with on-line viscometry, in particular [2], and

also covering hyphenated liquid chromatographic polymer analysis methods, in general [6].

The range of analytes studied employing these separation methods is also shown, in applications ranging from block copolymers [1, 3], to polyethylene [4], to nanoparticles [5], to polysaccharides [2, 7, 8], to a variety of synthetic polymers [2, 6, 7].

The papers included in the *Virtual Issue on Macromolecular Separations* will be accessible for free until the end of this month. We encourage all our readers to take a look at what the journal has published in this area. As contributions to the journal in this field continue to grow in 2018 [9, 10], we welcome your submissions.

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