

# Foreword

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The 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on liquid phase separations and related techniques (5<sup>th</sup> NoSSS, Tallinn), organized by the Nordic Separation Science Society, was held 26–29 August 2009 at the Tallinn University of Technology Mustamäe Campus, Tallinn, Estonia. The conference has covered all aspects of separations by liquid chromatography and electrophoresis as well as related hyphenated techniques and detection methods.

More than 130 presentations were taking place in the conference of three days. A total of 20 recognized scientists were invited, including two from Japan and 18 from Europe to deliver plenary or invited lectures. In oral sessions 48 papers in total were presented, including 21 plenary and 27 contributed, while 74 posters were presented in two sessions. Three poster awards were selected from all the posters by the Best Poster Committee. In addition, an evening lecture session was held to give young researchers the opportunity to present their research orally and to meet senior scientists as well as young colleagues. Two lecture awards were given to the best presenters of the session. The organizers were particularly happy to find many talented young researchers in poster and evening lecture presentations.

This year's meeting, was sponsored by Tallinn University of Technology, EuCheMS Division of Analytical Chemistry and by local companies including HNK, Quantum and Norlab OY

5<sup>th</sup> NoSSS 2009 in Tallinn attracted 150 participants (25 countries). The conference showed a high level of science, and provided a friendly forum for international exchange, especially for those from Central and Easter Europe. The high activity in this region was recognized, as indicated by the number of submissions to this proceeding issue of the journal.

The participants had a chance to visit Old Tallinn and to touch the Estonian culture in the sightseeing tours as a part of the program. The organizers thought that the cultural exchange was as important as the scientific exchange.