

## Preface

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# Second International Conference on Biomedical Spectroscopy: From the Bench to the Clinic

The *Second International Conference on Biomedical Spectroscopy – From the Bench to the Clinic* (5–8 July 2003) took place in the heart of London, United Kingdom. Both the timeliness and importance of this topic is illustrated by the fact that in October 2003, the Nobel Prize for Physiology & Medicine was awarded to Paul Lauterbur and Peter Mansfield for their role in taking the magnetic resonance technique from the bench to the clinic. The conference attracted biomedical spectroscopists from over 31 different countries who presented high quality science illustrating how they are applying different spectroscopic techniques in addressing biomedical problems. The diversity of the techniques, the complexity of the problems and the inter-disciplinary nature of the science was impressive. It provided an excellent opportunity for exchange of ideas and establishment of collaborations between scientists with widely differing backgrounds, from both academia and industry. A selection of studies, presented at the conference, is published in this special issue of *Spectroscopy – An International Journal*.

Undoubtedly, the last few years has been a bonanza for Spectroscopists, gaining international recognition in the form of various accolades including the award of two consecutive Nobel Prizes. In my opinion, this is merely the beginning of an exciting era for biomedical spectroscopists who are poised to play a pivotal role in advancing drug discovery and health care. It is hoped that *Spectroscopy – An International Journal* will continue to be an important vehicle for communicating these exciting discoveries and advances.

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