Preface

The Third European Symposium on Controlled Drug Delivery was held in Noordwijk aan Zee, The Netherlands, from April 4 to 6, 1994. With the active participation of our Scientific Advisory Board we were able to prepare a programme where leading scientists from European and non-European countries presented their latest results on drug delivery systems. Furthermore, a poster session was organized to allow researchers to present and discuss their results in this rapidly developing and exciting area. Speakers at the symposium included pharmaceutical scientists, polymer scientists, bioengineers, biochemists and pharmacologists. The topics of the symposium were selected to provide a high level multidisciplinary programme, where participants with different backgrounds had an opportunity to learn about the latest developments in the drug delivery area.

These topics were: transdermal drug delivery systems, peptide delivery systems, micro- and nanoparticle technology, vaccine delivery, functional and/or biospecific polymers for delivery of bioactive agents, clinical development of controlled release systems, natural polymers, peptide delivery and controlled release for regulation of cellular function.

The proceedings of the Third European Symposium on Controlled Drug Delivery contains 16 papers which were generated from the presentation at the symposium.

The editors extend their appreciation to the sponsors of the programme: 3M Medica GmbH, Germany; Astra Arcus AB, Sweden; Astra Hässle AB, Sweden; Ciba-Geigy Ltd, USA; Insutech Inc, USA; Medisorb Tech-

nologies International LP, USA; N.V. Organon/Akzo-Nobel, The Netherlands; Pronova Biopolymer a/s, Norway; Rhône-Poulenc Rorer SA, France; Sandoz Pharma Ltd, Switzerland; Yamanouchi Europe B.V., The Netherlands.

Symposium contributors included: Alza Corporation, USA; Bayer AG, Germany; Genetech, Inc, USA; Glaxo Group Research Ltd, UK; Hoechst AG, Germany; Holland Biomaterials Group, The Netherlands; Pfizer Central Research Ltd, UK; Purac Biochem B.V., The Netherlands; Sam Yang Company Ltd, Korea; Shering AG, Germany; Schwarz Pharma AG, Germany; Servier, France; Solvay Duphar B.V., The Netherlands; Syntex Discovery Research, USA; The Wellcome Foundation Ltd, UK; TheraTech, USA.

The generous contribution of these sponsors and contributors made this symposium possible. The editors acknowledge and extend their appreciation to their colleagues of the organizing committee, including Dr. ir. Jan van Alsté, Dr. ir. Jan Olijslager and Dr. Tom Sam. Together we succeeded in making the Third Symposium in a series of forthcoming symposia a success.

Jorge Heller

*APS Research Institute
Redwood City, CA, USA*

*Jan Feijen
University of Twente
Faculty of Chemical Technology,
Enschede, The Netherlands*