PREFACE

The First European Symposium on Controlled Drug Delivery was held in Leidschendam, The Netherlands, from March 28-30, 1990. With the active participation of our Scientific Advisory Board we have been able to prepare a programme where leading scientists from European and non-European countries have 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: biodegradable implants for drug delivery, pharmacokinetics/dynamics of controlled release systems, transdermal iontophoretic transport, high molecular weight drugs, prodrugs and drug targeting, liposomes, niosomes, micro- and nanoparticles as drug carriers and the application of hydrogels for controlled drug delivery.

The proceedings of the First European Symposium on Controlled Drug Delivery contains 22 papers which were generated from the presentation at the symposium.

The editors extend their appreciation to the sponsors of the Symposium: The Commission of the European Communities SPRINT Programme; Duphar BV, Weesp (NL); Gist-brocades, Delft (NL); Organon/Akzo, Oss, Arnhem (NL); Sandoz Ltd., Basel (CH) and Schwarz Pharma AG, Monheim (F.R.G.).

Symposium contributors included: Boehringer Ingelheim BV, Alkmaar (NL); Boehringer Mannheim AG, Mannheim (F.R.G.); Ciba-Geigy, Pharmaceutical Division, Horsham (U.K.); Ciba-Geigy Corp., Ardsley (U.S.A.); KABI Invent, Huddinge (S); Pfizer Central Research, Sandwich (U.K.); Syntex Research, Palo Alto (U.S.A.); Wellcome Research Laboratories, Kent (U.K.) and Thera Tech Inc., Salt Lake City (U.S.A.).

The generous contributions of these sponsors and contributors have 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 this First Symposium in a series of forthcoming Symposia a success.

Jorge Heller
SRI International
Polymer Sciences Department
Menlo Park, CA, U.S.A.

Jan Feijen
University of Twente
Faculty of Chemical technology
Enschede, The Netherlands