Preface

The First Conference of the Polish Society of Mass Spectrometry was organized in Pulawy on April 16–18th, 2008. It was a successful event during which 6 plenary lectures, 26 oral and 55 poster contributions were presented. The Society was encouraged with that success and decided to organize the Second Conference in Poznań this year. The major aims of the Conference are to continue the integration of Polish scientists and analysts using mass spectrometry techniques and to provide opportunities for discussion on theoretical and practical problems of this analytical technique. The Organizing Committee believes that these aims will be achieved and all the participants will benefit from this meeting.

Analytical methods based on the mass spectrometric detection and quantification of different low molecular mass compounds as well as polymers, including biopolymers such as proteins, nucleic acids or polysaccharides have been well established during the last years. They are widely applied in chemical laboratories, but their usefulness in different areas of environmental research as well as life sciences: medical, pharmaceutical and agricultural (food and nutrition science) has been widely confirmed. Several directions of biological science such as proteomics or metabolomics could arise thanks to the application of MS methods.

The Conference has been divided into five Sessions dealing with different aspects of mass spectrometry: 1 “Theory and fundamentals of mass spectrometry, new technical solutions”; 2. “Applications of hyphenated mass spectrometry – chromatographic techniques in analysis of pharmaceutical products, food, feed and environmental samples”; 3. “Applications of mass spectrometry techniques in proteomic and metabolomic studies in life sciences, search for biomarkers”. Additionally we decided to organize session devoted to application of bioinformatic in genomic research, entitled: High throughput genomic and bioinformatic methods. We do hope this subject may be interesting due to importance of mass spectrometric data on proteome and metabolome level in genomic studies.

Abstracts of oral and poster contributions presented during the Conference cover the full range of applications of mass spectrometry in Polish laboratories.