



Preface

The 12th edition of the European Symposium on Controlled Drug Delivery was held on April 4–6, 2012 in Hotel Zuiderduin in Egmond aan Zee, The Netherlands. Throughout the last two decades, the symposium has established itself as a high-quality symposium on all aspects of advanced drug delivery. Supported by suggestions from our Scientific Advisory Board, the organizing committee was able to realize also for this symposium a program where 26 international experts from academia and industry presented their latest results on cutting edge topics in the field of drug and gene delivery. According to the symposium policy, both renowned and young emerging star scientists were invited from pharmaceutical sciences, polymer chemistry, biomedical and medical sciences, bioengineering, and tissue engineering. Furthermore, a poster session with 110 poster presentations was held where researchers have presented and discussed their novel results in this rapidly developing and exciting area.

The topics of this 12th edition of European Symposia on Controlled Drug Delivery have provided a high level multidisciplinary program, in which 167 participants from 27 countries and with diverse backgrounds had ample opportunity to learn about novel concepts in drug delivery, latest developments in nucleic acid delivery, protein delivery, particulate vaccine delivery, industrial drug delivery research, targeted drug delivery, bioactive delivery for tissue engineering, and novel materials and techniques for triggered drug release. A special afternoon session was focused on ultrasound mediated drug delivery, where the latest results of the EU FP7 program Sonodrugs were discussed. A good flavor of this symposium can be

obtained from the 20 papers that were generated from the presentations at the symposium and are included in this special issue of the Journal of Controlled Release.

The organizers express their acknowledgement to the main sponsors of the symposium, to Philips Research and DSM Biomedical, and to the cosponsors of Elsevier and the MIRA Institute of the University of Twente. Thank you for their support, and for the invaluable contributions of my colleagues in the organization committee, Marc Hendriks (DSM Biomedical), Wim Hennink (University of Utrecht), Stefaan De Smedt (University of Ghent), and Piet Dijkstra (University of Twente). Charles Sio (Philips Research) is especially acknowledged for his support in the organization of the session on ultrasound mediated drug delivery. Together with the essential assistance of our administrative staff, Karin Hendriks and Hetty ten Hoopen, we have succeeded in making this 12th European Symposium of Controlled Drug Delivery to a great success. We are already looking forward to a successful 13th edition in April 2014.

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