

Preface

Lectori salutem,

Editors, authors often claim that completion of their book was a giant, lonesome and tedious task. Often they add, their mission was “once in a lifetime”. As they say in Germany with a sense of humor, “Einstein macht noch kein Haus¹” meaning that the cooperation of people is in the heart of big achievements. So it has been with our book: all the authors had to find time in their busy life among other important engagements for timely writing activities, for which we cannot say often enough how grateful we are.

This *Handbook of Surface Plasmon Resonance* is the product of an intensive interaction process and is intended for a wide audience: scientists and students intending to use the technology, the wider public interested in SPR as a phenomenon and its application, but also providers of (parts of) the technology. Although the book as a whole covers many aspects of the technology at present spanning a bridge between theory, instrumentation and applications, the chapters are written so as to be comprehensible individually as well. It is hoped that the readers of this book will share our enthusiasm for biomolecular interaction analysis based on SPR technology. We also hope that we have succeeded in revealing the potential of SPR by showing highly exciting and unique opportunities for unraveling the functional relationships of complex biological processes.

Special thanks are also due to the members of the Biochip Group of the MESA+ Institute for Nanotechnology of the University of Twente who have contributed to the book: Stefan Schlautmann and Hans de Boer for technical support and some of the drawings. In addition, we thank Geert Besselink Bianca Beusink, Angelique Lokate, Dietrich Kohlheyer, Ganesh Krishnamoorthy, Dawid Zalewski, Remco Verdoold, Mayke van der Ploeg and Bjorn Harink for their input. This devoted team provided the warm and inspiring atmosphere of the Biochip Group during the two-year period from the birth of the idea to completion of the manuscript.

¹ Literally: even Einstein could not build a house and the German meaning of *ein stein* is one stone.

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