The application of mass spectrometry is experiencing a quantum growth in many scientific disciplines, including medicine. It is timely that two winners of the 2002 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, John B. Fenn and Koichi Tanaka, are mass spectrometrists. These individuals were honored for their contributions to the development of soft ionization techniques as applied to the mass spectrometric analysis of biological macromolecules. Methods borne out of their discoveries are revolutionizing many areas of clinical chemistry, as described by David Bruns in a recent chapter in *Molecular Testing in Laboratory Medicine* (AACC Press). These applications and many others, such as environmental, forensic, physical, and biological sciences, are documented in this handsomely designed book.

The foundations of mass spectrometry date back nearly 200 years to John Dalton, who proposed that all matter is composed of elements, that the number and types of atoms corresponded to the exact number and types of elements, and that all elements have a measurable physical property, ...