

## Preface to the 2nd edition

The internationalization of science has led to the use of English as the general language of communication – a structurally simple language, with an enormous vocabulary.

Laboratory English seems to be a language of its own – at times quite incomprehensible to outsiders. “Laboratory slang” consists of neologisms, colloquialisms, contractions, acronyms, and brandnames. Foreigners arriving in an English-speaking laboratory may be quite puzzled with *fleas, pigs, fuge, fridge, policemen, bogies, dollies, elbows, daisy-chains, PCR, fleakers, gunk* – and all that “*gooey stuff*”.

Those who intend to work in laboratories around the world are well advised to continuously improve their language skills in scientific English with the assistance of a native-speaking scientist along with consulting scientific style manuals ...and dictionaries! ... and there is a wealth of technical laboratory terms to be discovered by the non-native-speaker, if only for the reason of survival in the lab: safety precautions and proper behavior in case of emergencies require instant response and efficient communication.

The idea for writing this book arose from my involvement as a consultant to a “San Francisco Academy” for a dozen young German students from Heidelberg. For our language preparatory course I needed to decide on a list of “essential terminology” – as no adequate book was available on the German market at the time. This “*Laboratory Dictionary*” now seems to have filled the gap and – in its expanded and improved present 2nd edition – provides the basic and up-to-date vocabulary to continue to assist its users in improving their laboratory language skills.

The “*Laboratory Dictionary*” is based on extensive comparative linguistic studies of original literature in technology, engineering and analytical methods as well as vast amounts of supplier catalogs in both languages – resulting in this 2nd edition, now with 25,000 general and specialized terms from all walks of laboratory life, emphasizing:

- **Facility engineering (electricity, plumbing, ventilation)**
- **Equipment & supplies**
- **Glassware, tools, apparatus**
- **Servicing, maintenance, repair**
- **Ordering, shipment, delivery**
- **Analytics (methods & procedures)**
- **Chemicals (general reactants)**
- **Safety (precautions & emergencies)**

The new German orthography rules have been taken into account according to *Wahrig Deutsches Wörterbuch*, 7th edn., the English orthography following American spelling according to *Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*, 11th edn.

We hope this dictionary may serve you as a useful tool for working in the laboratory, in your research, in writing publications, preparing presentations, and for translations.

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