

## Summary

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As pointed up in this volume, the present day analytical laboratory is undergoing many day-to-day operational changes which have been caused by the increased availability and utilization of computerized laboratory instruments. Since these changes are occurring at an alarming rate, the need for guidelines and standards which outline the scientific and systematic approach to automation are more important now than ever before. For the most part, the papers presented in this volume reflect how the scientific and systematic approach can be used to specify, design, implement, and document the development of computerized laboratory systems. To some extent, they also reflect the philosophy and direction that ASTM Committee E-31 is taking to develop these guidelines and standards.

Having read this collection of papers, the reader can well appreciate the complexities involved in the development of a successful computerized laboratory system. Therefore, it is the hope of ASTM Committee E-31 that the reader has recognized the importance of taking a scientific and systematic approach in the development of any computerized laboratory system. We of ASTM Committee E-31 would sincerely appreciate any recommendations or criticisms of our efforts. To be effective, such help can best be furnished by your direct participation in E-31 activities.