

in Molten Media"; E. Königsberger (Austria), "Thermodynamic Modeling of Crystal Deposition in Humans"; and M. Gaune-Escard (France), "Dissolution of Spent Fuels in Molten Salts in Pyrochemical Treatment". In addition, there were 24 contributed papers and 33 posters.

The invited lectures, contributed papers, and posters covered the general areas of: solid-state solubility and molten salts; thermodynamics and kinetics in solution; biomineralization; fullerenes; nucleation phenomena; applications of coprecipitation phenomena and phase equilibria in separation technology and formulation of thin films; and compilation and evaluation of solubility data. Lectures and contributed papers were given in six sessions, and there was a very fine half-day poster session. The plenary and invited lectures will be published in *Pure and Applied Chemistry* under the editorship of Prof. Peter G. Fogg (UK).

Participants enjoyed an evening dinner reception hosted by the Société Chimique Tunisienne. A half-day excursion to the site of Carthage and its excellent museum, plus the picturesque seaside village of Sidi Bou Saïd, was followed by the symposium dinner, hosted by Dr. Kbir-Arighuib, in a restaurant in Carthage. Accompanying persons were well looked after, with excursions to the renowned Bardo Museum in Tunis and to the ancient cities of Kairouan, Sousse, and Monastir. The organizers are to be congratulated on a well-planned meeting that provided valuable new information on many aspects of solubility phenomena. The extensive participation of Tunisian chemists, along with a number of posters describing their current work, was a particularly notable feature of the symposium.

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12th International Congress on Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry, 14–18 August 2000, Copenhagen, Denmark

About 300 participants from 39 nations had the opportunity to attend 280 presentations (130 lectures and 150 posters) at this meeting. Lectures and posters were generally of a high standard. Organization and information distributed before and during the conference were excellent. In my brief talk at the opening of the Congress, I conveyed the traditional greetings from IUPAC, with good wishes for a successful conference. Although there was not time for any significant presentation of IUPAC programs and policies, I delivered a substantial mes-

sage from IUPAC's Commission on Thermodynamics (I.2), with wishes for closer cooperation between Commission I.2 and the International Congress on Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry (ICTAC), in particular regarding nomenclature and terminology. I also presented a letter on that subject, from Commission I.2 Chairman Prof. Ron D. Weir to outgoing ICTAC President Edward Charsley. The letter was later discussed at the ICTAC business meeting, and our proposal was received very favorably.

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22nd IUPAC International Symposium on the Chemistry of Natural Products (ISCNP-22), 4–8 September 2000, São Carlos, São Paulo, Brazil

Research on the chemistry of natural products has a long tradition. The topic can be regarded as the basis of modern organic and biomolecular chemistry. It is not surprising that IUPAC, at an early stage of its activities, initiated the present series of biennial symposia, which now has been going on for nearly half a century.



Organic natural products have been a major source of inspiration not only for present activities in organic chemistry, but also for activities in related fields of life sciences. Today we experience exciting development of molecular understanding of functions of natural organic compounds in life processes, and we can enjoy and be fascinated by the enormous diversity that nature offers.

The development of methods for synthesis, separa-

tion techniques, and structural studies, has provided tools for studies of natural products. These studies offer a deeper understanding of the chemistry of life processes and of complex biological and ecological interactions in nature.

The recent ISCNP-22 symposium in Brazil clearly demonstrated the importance of interdisciplinary research efforts in the field. It gave an overview and provided excellent opportunities for exchange of information and for starting collaborative research efforts. Scientific quality of the presentations was high, and the scientific program provided an outlook on several research frontiers from synthesis and biosynthesis to mode of action. During the 5 symposium days, 8 plenary lectures, 19 invited lectures, and 33 short lectures were presented. Each morning there were poster sessions; more than 300 posters were presented in all. Particularly impressive were the contributions from the many young, mainly Brazilian, scientists. Enthusiasm and interest for research and development in the field, demonstrated by the Brazilian scientists, were significant and strongly indicate future successful activities of high international quality. Prof. Dr. Otto R. Gottlieb, who was chairman of the symposium organizing committee, can be very proud, because he is the mentor for many of the natural product chemists of Brazil.

The initiative of having this symposium in a developing country and, in particular, in a biodiversity-rich country such as Brazil, was very much appreciated. The symposium will not only have an impact for the future development of this field of research in Brazil, but will also provide a platform for activities in other biodiversity-rich countries. The organizers—and, in particular, Prof. Dr. M. Fátima das G. F. da Silva, who was the Secretary General—are to be congratulated for a successful symposium.

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16th International Symposium on
Medicinal Chemistry, 18–22 September
2000, Bologna, Italy

It is the third time that this symposium was held in Italy (previously, it was held in Florence in 1974 and in Milan in 1978), but the Bologna location shed a unique light on the meeting. Bologna is the site of the oldest university in the world, as the University of Bologna was established almost a millennium ago in 1088. This noble locale demanded an outstanding effort of the Organizing Committee, chaired by Prof. C. Melchiorre (Uni-

versity of Bologna) to achieve a high standard for the scientific program. The symposium's objectives were fully achieved, and 1 200 participants enjoyed a unique four-day event, merging scientific, cultural, and historical interests with world-famous Bolognese cuisine and well-known hospitality, along with the open-minded and fun-loving personality of the people of Bologna.

The opening ceremony was initiated by Prof. Melchiorre, who introduced the symposium program to the audience, followed by representatives of IUPAC, the Medicinal Chemistry Division of the American Chemistry Society, the Asian Federation of Medicinal Chemistry, the European Federation of Medicinal Chemistry, and the Medicinal Chemistry Division of the Italian Chemical Society. All of these speakers further stressed the scientific and cultural attributes of the venue.

The prestigious Nauta Award for Medicinal Chemistry was given to Prof. E. De Clercq (Rega Institute for Medical Research, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven) for his outstanding work in antiviral research. Special mention is due De Clercq's work in the HIV area, which he outlined in a plenary lecture. He reviewed all the potential mechanisms by which HIV could be targeted to provide new and effective therapies. For example, the replication of the virus could be stopped by reducing viral absorption to the cell by blocking it with polyanionic compounds containing the viral envelope glycoprotein, gp 120, which is instrumental to the adhesion process. Additional targets are the virus–cell fusion processes, blocked by certain oligopeptides, and viral assembly that could be prevented by dithiobisbenzamido derivatives. The importance of these newer approaches is further increased by the continuous appearance of HIV strains that are resistant to the current therapy.

The inaugural lecture on rational drug design was given by Prof. Daniel H. Rich (Department of Chemistry and School of Pharmacy, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin, USA). What will it look like at the end of the 21st century? After a historical overview on the progress made by medicinal chemists in the design and synthesis of new drugs, from the Erlich concept of the magic bullet to the use of computerized approaches, Prof. Rich suggested that the main limitation of effective drug design is our poor knowledge of the real conformations of protein receptors and enzymes. More powerful tools, such as understanding how certain natural toxins can easily cross barriers (i.e., the blood–brain barrier) will be available during the new century to help medicinal chemists overcome these issues.

Prof. P. Krogsgaard-Larsen (Royal Danish School of Pharmacy, Copenhagen, Denmark) delivered a plenary lecture on inhibitory and excitatory amino acid agonists and antagonists and their potential application