

Preface

The Third International Meeting of the Carbohydrate Chemistry Group — GLUPOR-3 was held at the University of Aveiro Campus, in Aveiro, Portugal, from 19 to 23 September 1999. GLUPOR-3 was the First Iberian Carbohydrate Meeting, in an organisation of the Portuguese and Spanish Carbohydrate Chemistry Groups, that, from now on, will meet every three years. GLUPOR-3 brought together the scientific and industrial communities to discuss the latest developments in carbohydrate chemistry, covering the general headings: Synthesis, Analysis, Biochemistry and Industry.

The University of Aveiro was host to scientists from 16 countries: Austria, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The Netherlands, UK, and USA, with a total of 178 participants plus 12 accompanying persons. Many carbohydrate chemists present were names of reference in the field, justifying the relevant scientific level of the meeting.

GLUPOR-3 had, as Guests of Honour, Professors Jacques Defaye, Gérard Descotes, Per Garegg, André Pavia, Johannes Vliegthart and Roy Whistler. The meeting consisted of 13 sessions. Session 3 was dedicated to the memory of Professor Stanislas Czernecki (France), and Session 7 was dedicated to the memory of Dr Margaret Clarke (USA), both recently deceased. The Opening Plenary Lecture was given by Professor Manuel Martin Lomas (Spain) and the Closing Plenary Lecture was given by Professor Derek Horton (USA). A total of 32 Invited Lectures, 18 Oral Communications and 75 Poster

Communications were presented during the four days of the meeting.

GLUPOR-3 had the support of the following institutions: University of Aveiro, FCT — Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia, Services Culturel Scientifique et de Coopération de L'Ambassade de France, RAR — Refinarias de Açúcar Reunidas, FLAD — Fundação Luso-Americana para o Desenvolvimento, Caixa Geral de Depósitos, Soporcel, Governo Civil de Aveiro, ELNOR — Equipamentos Técnicos e de Laboratório and REAGENTE 5 — Química e Electrónica, Lda. The Portuguese Association of Sugar Refiners (ARAP) promoted scholarships for the participation of students from Portuguese Universities. This allowed 16 students from eight institutions to be present.

The social events included a Program for Accompanying Persons, with visits to the councils of Aveiro, Ílhavo and Ovar. The fourth GLUPOR will take place in 2001, in Lisbon, on the occasion of the European Carbohydrate Meeting, EUROCARB XI.

The *Carbohydrate Polymers* edition dedicated to GLUPOR-3 includes 11 research papers on organic synthesis of sugar derivatives and polymers, characterisation of natural compounds, activity of enzymes, analysis of cell wall polysaccharides and properties of starch-based materials.

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