



## Forward

This Special Issue is the outgrowth of the symposium “*Mass Spectrometry of Biopolymers: From Model Systems to Ribosomes*” that Vicki Wysocki and I organized at the American Chemical Society meeting in Anaheim in March, 2004. There were 30 talks in 6 sessions spread over 3 days. The talks were well-attended and the feedback from both the audience and speakers was very positive. As part of the process, I asked the speakers if they would be interested in providing summaries of their talks, written in accounts format, for either collection in a Special Issue of IJMS or a feature article in the Journal. The response was very positive with 17 of the 30 speakers indicating they would be willing to contribute, the majority of them favoring a Special Issue that collected papers in one place. Of those 17, we eventually received the 14 manuscripts that make up this issue.

The manuscripts are meant to have a special flavor. Rather than cover exclusively new research results, which characterizes the large majority of IJMS papers, or comprehensive reviews that the Journal occasionally publishes, these papers are focused on the work in the author’s laboratory centered on a specific research topic. Work previously published could

be included if it contributed to the development of the central theme and the authors were encouraged to give their personal perspective even if others might view the topic in a somewhat different light.

The papers give a good representation of the symposium that foreshadowed them. While several of the papers cover several categories, they are roughly split as follows: four cover rapid-throughput/proteomics techniques, two deal with reactivity, six deal with some aspect of conformation or structure and one focuses on instrument development. On reading the papers, I was struck by the diversity of writing styles employed and how each was effective in its own way. These papers make great reading and I encourage you to enjoy them.

Michael T. Bowers  
*Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry*  
*University of California, UCSB*  
*Santa Barbara, CA 93106, USA*  
Tel.: +1 805 893 2893; fax: +1 805 893 8703  
*E-mail address:* [bowers@chem.ucsb.edu](mailto:bowers@chem.ucsb.edu)