

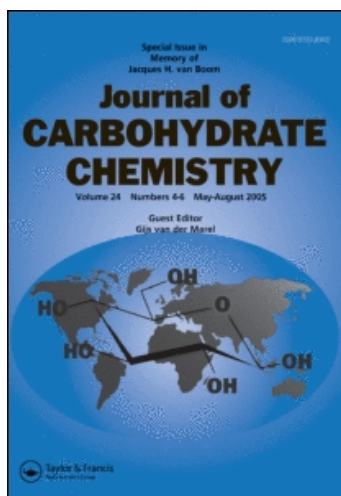
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Editorial

Hans Peter Wessel

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Editorial



Hans Peter Wessel

Dear readers of the *Journal of Carbohydrate Chemistry*,

This issue of the *Journal of Carbohydrate Chemistry* is slightly different from the ones you are used to, more reviews, more biology, ...

You are holding in hand the Symposium Issue from the *First Euroconference on Carbohydrates in Drug Research*. This conference, supported by the Commission of European Communities, aimed at bringing together scientists from academia and pharmaceutical industries to achieve some cross-fertilization and promote an interdisciplinary culture among glycochemists to give more focus to applied pharmaceutical targets. The meeting was coordinated by Professor Francesco Nicotra from Milano, Italy. He and his Organizing and Scientific Committee had assembled an exclusive list of speakers from Europe and from the USA and Canada, about half of

them, in keeping with the above formulated goals, representatives of pharmaceutical companies. The conference was held in Sardinia, Italy, in a lovely resort hotel near Stintino – a perfect setting for the hundred participants from 14 European countries and three other continents to exchange results and ideas. Special thanks go Dr. Barbara La Ferla who spent part of her valuable research time as Scientific Secretary.

I am glad that a good number of speakers and poster contributors agreed to publish a part of their contributions in this *JCC* Symposium Issue. This first ECCDR was devoted to “Carbohydrates in Infection”, and one thematic block dealt with carbohydrate processing enzymes. Discussing their role in disease, you will find in this issue a highly interesting review by B. Winchester and G. Fleet on “Modification of Glycosylation as a Therapeutic Strategy” to set the stage. A. Stütz et al. have reviewed the field of imino sugars as anti-infectives, and papers by P. Vogel, I. Lundt, A. Goti, J.-C. Florent, Z. Witczak and their collaborators as well as communications by A. Tatibouët and H.-J. Altenbach and their collaborators follow up on the synthesis of new carbohydrate mimetics. A paper by J. Thiem and colleagues supplies an example on the use of carbohydrate processing enzymes in synthesis. A remarkable piece of carbohydrate medicinal chemistry in academia is reviewed by M. J. Camarasa et al., and a related synthetic communication is by A. San Felix et al. In the area of carbohydrate vaccines we have a review by M. Moreau on the prevention of pneumococcal infections. Further immunological contributions are the papers by L. Mulard and collaborator, by A. Spadaro and colleagues and by O. Lockhoff and collaborator. On the synthetic avenue, C. Nativi and colleagues and G. Palumbo and colleagues describe new carbohydrate building blocks in their communications.

My sincere thanks go to the contributors to this Symposium Issue for composing their work presented at ECCDR1 in time and their good collaboration, to all referees who gave their expert opinion, and last but not least to Dr. Don Kiely who did the final editing of all contributions.

Finally, it remains to point out that the *Second Euroconference on Carbohydrates in Drug Research* with a focus on ‘Carbohydrates in Disease Processes’ will be held September 14–17, 2000 near Lisbon, Portugal.

I trust that you will enjoy reading this *JCC* Symposium Issue!

Yours,

Hans Peter Wessel
Regional Editor