

Preface to this Special Issue

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As in every other year, the *Journal of Fluorescence* is publishing a good fraction of the work presented at the respective Conferences on Methods & Applications of Fluorescence (MAF). This issue contains full papers of contributions made to MAF-10 that took place from 9-12 Sept 2007 in the beautiful city of Salzburg, Austria.

MAF conferences cover all aspects of fluorescence spectroscopy, fluorescence imaging, and fluorescent probes. This issue of the *Journal of Fluorescence* contains a number of excellent articles on these subjects, with topics ranging from fluorophore/protein interactions to upconversion fluorescence, low-temperature matrix spectroscopy, fluorescent nanoparticles and their application as probes and labels, to frequency- and time-domain lifetime spectroscopy and raster scanning correlation spectroscopy (FCS), to solvent relaxation studies and fluorescent sensors. It also covers numerous biophysical and bioanalytical applications and thus demonstrates the wealth of information that can be gained by this extremely versatile kind of spectroscopy.

MAF-10 was attended by almost 400 participants. Previous MAF conferences were held in Lisbon, Amsterdam, Paris, Cambridge, Berlin, Graz and Prague). The next one will take place in Budapest in September 2008. For further information, see www.maf-sip.com.

In the twenty years of its existence, the MAF conference series has become the leading event in fluorescence. Not unexpectedly, they have created numerous contacts and cooperations that have led—in turn—to joint proposals, joint research, and joint papers, particularly in this journal. The indispensable support by our sponsors shall be acknowledged here again.



Regensburg, February 2008
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Conference Chairman

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