

## Introduction

The 6th International Conference on Methods and Applications of Fluorescence Spectroscopy was held in Paris, France, September 12–15, 1999. This conference is organized on alternate years. The preceding conferences took place in Graz, Austria (1989 and 1991); Prague, Czech Republic (1993); Cambridge, England (1995); and Berlin, Germany (1997).

It is the aim of this series of conferences to bring together researchers working in various fields which employ fluorescence as a tool of investigation for both fundamental and applied purposes. Applications in chemistry, physics, biology, and medicine were covered. The presentations included 18 invited lectures, 6 short talks, and 190 posters. These presentations as well as the number of participants (more than 300 from 32 countries) reflect the ever growing interest in fluorescence. Attention was paid to maintaining balance between basic science and applied science and between physicochemical sciences and life sciences.

This special issue of the *Journal of Fluorescence* contains the peer-reviewed papers submitted at the conference. The large diversity of the contributions shows the rise of new methodologies.

We are grateful to all those who have made the organization of this conference possible. Special thanks are due to the institutions, sponsors, and exhibitors who helped to finance the conference.

The next MAFS conference will be held in Amsterdam in September, 2001 and will be organized by Prof. R. Kraayenhof.

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