

9th International Conference on Methods and Applications of Fluorescence: Spectroscopy, Imaging and Probes

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The present issue of the *Journal of Fluorescence* (as well as the forthcoming May issue) contains peer-reviewed papers from the participants of the 9th International Conference on Methods and Applications of Fluorescence: Spectroscopy, Imaging and Probes (MAF 9), held in Lisbon, Portugal, September 4–7, 2005, and jointly organized by Instituto Superior Técnico (Universidade Técnica de Lisboa) and by Sociedade Portuguesa de Química.

The meeting, with more than 300 participants from 33 countries, included 18 plenary and invited lectures, 8 oral presentations, and 214 poster presentations (for details, see <http://maf9.ist.utl.pt>). The presence of 10 exhibitors, most of which displaying advanced fluorescence equipment, was also an important part of the event. Current issues related to fluorescence were discussed at the MAF 9 Conference, including recent advances in fluorescence methods and techniques, and the development and application of fluorescent probes. Special emphasis was placed on the fluorescence of artificial and biological nanosystems, single-molecule fluorescence, luminescence of polymers, membranes and colloids, fluorescence sensors and luminescence analytical techniques,

fluorescence microscopy, and fluorescence correlation spectroscopy.

A multi-authored book with chapters based on the lectures and also with other invited chapters will be published by Springer in 2006 (vol. 4 of the *Springer Series on Fluorescence*).

We are deeply grateful to all co-organizers, to the International Scientific Committee, and to the Permanent Steering Committee of the MAF 9 series for their help and guidance.

Special thanks are due to the sponsors of the MAF 9 Conference: Reitoria da Universidade Técnica de Lisboa, Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, Fundação Luso-Americana, Turismo de Lisboa, Horiba Jobin-Yvon, Carl Zeiss, Leica Microsystems, and Springer.

The next meeting of the MAF series will be organized by Prof. Otto S. Wolfbeis (University of Regensburg, Germany), and will take place in Salzburg, Austria, in 2007.

Lisbon, December 2005

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