

Third Conference on Methods and Applications of Fluorescence Spectroscopy, Prague, Czech Republic, October 18–21, 1993

This is Part I of the last group of special issues of the *Journal of Fluorescence* which comprise papers issuing from both plenary lectures and posters from the above 4-day conference. The conference was the third in a series; the previous one took place in Graz, Austria, October 14–17, 1991, and its plenary lectures were published by Springer-Verlag as a book edited by Professor Otto S. Wolfbeis.

Applied fluorescence spectroscopy is a highly interdisciplinary area of research. In recent years there has been a migration of the concepts and phenomena of fluorescence to the use of these concepts in analytical chemistry, in biotechnology, and in the study of biological molecules. One objective of these conferences has been to provide a forum for people from the diverse fields of physics, chemistry, biology, biochemistry, ecology, geology, biomedical sciences, and clinical medicine to interchange ideas and to present the results of their research.

Because of the immense progress in spectroscopy and supporting technologies, the conference was organized with time devoted to review the state of the art of fluorescence techniques. This was achieved by plenary lectures. Selection of these accomplished scientists for plenary lectures resulted in a large number of participants, many more than expected. The poster sessions were devoted to the detailed presentation of the results of current research on the phenomena or applications of

fluorescence. The conference contained 127 posters by more than 200 participants from 21 countries of the world.

During the conference we learned that many of the presented posters or lectures contained new results, not presented elsewhere in the scientific literature. For this reason, the papers in this issue were peer-reviewed according to the standards of the *Journal of Fluorescence*. Publishing the papers in the journal is a change from the previous plan to publish a separate book volume.

The editors offer their thanks to Ms. Suzy Rhinehart, Editorial Assistant to the *Journal of Fluorescence*, for her successful completion of the task of organizing the review and preparation of all the papers from the Prague conference.

The next meeting in this series will take place in Cambridge, in October 1995, hosted by Professor James N. Miller from the Loughborough University of Technology.

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