



Preface

The 26th International Symposium on Macrocyclic Chemistry (ISMC2001) was held at Sea Hawk Hotel & Resort in Fukuoka City from July 15th until 20th. This was the first symposium of this series in the 21st century. In the planning stage, therefore, we regarded ISMC2001 as a milestone to recapitulate the research progress on macrocyclic chemistry in the 20th century and foresee the future extension in the 21st century.

Thus, we invited not only well-established, world-famous professors but also young, developing professors so that we can discuss where we are now in 2001 and where we are going in the 21st century. In order to facilitate discussions from these points of view, we built two special sessions into the program of ISMC2001. The first one was the E. Kimura Session: Professor Eiichi Kimura, who served as a member of the International Organizing Committee for a long period and explored a new research field of macrocyclic chemistry, will retire from Hiroshima University in March, 2002. This session was organized to thank him for his great contribution and to wish for his happy retirement. The second was the ICORP Session to mark the end of this 5-year long (1997–2001) international joint project between Japan (Japan Science & Technology Corporation/Kyushu University) and the Netherlands (Twente University). To illustrate the impact of international research projects: according to the statistics of the Dutch National Foundation (SON), the citation indexes for international joint research papers is higher than those for single country research papers. Supported by the progress of IT-techniques, the planning of the joint research project is now no longer so much a function of distance but more a function of mutual interest. The ICORP Session was built into the ISMC2001 program in order to show world-leading chemists a concrete example for this class of international joint projects. From the success of this program, we can confidently predict that the 21st century is an era of borderless joint research projects, not only crossing over country borders but also over research fields.

In this context, the fact that Professor Jonathan L. Sessler was selected as 2001 Izatt-Christensen Awardee was very

timely, because in his Award Lecture he emphasized the importance of such borderless research, combining basic university research with applied industry research. We have to also mention that he has been one of the prominent leaders in this research field and in addition, serving as a member of the International Organizing Committee.

To this special issue Professor E. W. Meijer and Professor K. Mosbach, who were invited but could not come because of health or postage problems, kindly contributed as “on-journal speakers”.

Finally, Professor Donald J. Cram deceased on June 17th, 2001. Because of his great contribution to the research field of Macrocyclic Chemistry, several speakers including myself dedicated their talks to him.

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On behalf of the Organizing Committee

