

## Preface

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This special issue of the Journal of Inclusion Phenomena and Macrocyclic Chemistry is focused on the contribution to the 2nd European Conference on Cyclodextrin. The symposium took place in Italy (Asti, October 2–4, 2011) after the successful first edition held in Aalborg, Denmark (October 11–13, 2009).

Asti's Conference was honored by the scientific contributions of more than 150 researchers. Far beyond the geographic borders of Europe, the communications showed a worldwide interest in the field of cyclodextrin chemistry and technology.

Despite the fact that cyclodextrins are well known and extensively studied host molecules, the leitmotiv of the contributions at the conference was the discovery of new possible applications and the broadening of investigation fields. A right marriage of traditional chemistry and state-of-the-art research characterized the scientific discussion.

This occurred in a small city, Asti, where tradition and innovation are joint together. Indeed, the opening ceremony of the conference was in front of the birthplace of Michel S. Tswett. He was born in Asti, on May 14, 1872. The name of M. S. Tswett means the discovery of chromatography, a revolutionary event in the history of Chemistry. The milestones experiments of the Russian

botanist also were the starting point of a fascinating branch of chemical and physical research—the study and the applications of adsorption, absorption and in general, intermolecular interactions—bringing us back to the present research where cyclodextrins play a major role as natural, efficient, industrially available, non toxic, chemically derivatizable, homochiral and amphiphilic host.

The scientific contributions reflect the versatility of cyclodextrins: indeed they cover topics such as the chemical synthesis, pharmaceutical applications as solubility enhancer and as agents to increase of bioavailability of the active ingredients, nanotechnology, with important achievements in the field of sensors, nanovectors, nanoparticles and nanotubes coatings, polymer chemistry, analytical chemistry, spectroscopy and theoretical chemistry.

Least but not last, the important goal of stimulating the scientific debate and establish synergies and collaboration was completely achieved (perhaps with the complicity of the unique wine produced in the area of Asti, one of the most famous wine districts in the world).

Finally, on behalf of the organizing committee, we wish to express sincere thanks to all the authors that contributed to this issue.

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