

## Editorial foreword

This collection of papers is devoted to the topic of Topological Chemistry, the subject of an international conference organized by Andreas Dress and Ed Wasserman at the Zentrum für interdisziplinäre Forschung (ZiF), Universität Bielefeld, October 28 to November 1, 1991. The date of the conference coincided with the thirtieth anniversary of the publication of a pioneering paper by H.L. Frisch and E. Wasserman, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 83(1961)3789, that has marked the onset of a spectacular development in a fascinating area of topological chemistry: catenanes, rotaxanes, and various knotted molecules. These molecules and the underlying topological problems have been a strong source of motivation for research in both chemistry and mathematics, and this collection of papers gives us a sample of the latest developments.

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Editors-in-Chief