

## Preface

Olefin metathesis is the dynamically developing area of chemistry with excellent prospects, covered by more than 3000 publications since 2003, of actual and potential applications in petrochemistry, organic synthesis, polymer chemistry, synthesis and modification of advanced materials. About 250 patents concerning various aspects of metathesis have been granted since 2003. The 16th International Symposium on Olefin Metathesis and Related Chemistry was held on 7–12 August 2005 in Poznan, Poland.

Two months after the ISOM 16 the Royal Swedish Academy of Science awarded the 2005 Nobel Prize in Chemistry to three chemists who developed the reaction of olefin metathesis – Yves Chauvin, the French Petroleum Institute, Robert H. Grubbs of the California Institute of Technology and Richard R. Schrock of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology – two last of them presented keynote lectures at the ISOM 16. According to the Swedish Academy, “olefin metathesis is a great step forward for “green chemistry” and is an example of how important basic science has been applied to the benefit of man, society and the environment”.

The scope of the Symposium ISOM 16 covered all fields of metathesis and related transformations of olefins and other unsaturated molecules including commercial applications as well as most attractive topics of catalytic (co)polymerization. Particular topics covered: Organometallic Chemistry (synthesis, structure and reactivity of carbene complexes; catalysts

design and development; theoretical and computational studies of the mechanism of olefin metathesis), Organic Synthesis Based on Olefin Metathesis and Related Chemistry (application of metathesis in synthesis of fine chemicals, pharmaceuticals or biologically relevant molecules; asymmetric olefin metathesis), Polymer Synthesis with Metal Carbene Complexes and other TM Catalysts (metathesis polymerization, modern methods of olefin (co)polymerization).

Over 150 scientists from 23 countries representing both academic research and development centers attended the Symposium. ISOM 16 included 48 oral presentations, i.e. 4 keynotes, 20 invited and 24 short lectures. In addition, there was 60 poster communications on display during the entire Symposium.

The special issue of Journal of Molecular Catalysis A: Chemistry contains the proceedings of this symposium. The editor invited all the speakers to submit a regular or review paper to this issue. Most of them accepted this invitation.

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