

Preface

The concept of organising a conference series on protein stabilisation came from the need to provide a focused forum for academic researchers and industrialists to meet on a consistent basis to discuss this important subject. This first meeting was conceived, planned and hosted by Applied Enzyme Technology, based in Leeds, West Yorkshire who are one of the few companies in the world who specialise in stabilisation systems for biomolecules and in particular enzymes and other proteins.

The conference was organised over 3 days from Monday 29th June to Wednesday 1st July 1998, with registration and a welcome mixer on the Sunday evening.

Professor Alexander Klivanov gave the keynote lecture on the area of rational stabilisation of enzymes and proteins, illustrating his talk with examples of stabilisation from many years experience of the subject. The suggestion of replacing the empirical method of trying stabilisers to see if they work, with a rational series of experiments based on sound scientific reasoning was intrinsic to his presentation. Such methodology has the obvious advantage of direct application of academic knowledge into an industrially relevant environment and was an excellent start to the conference.

Following on from the keynote lecture, the topics of the oral presentations covered the following areas:

- (1) The use of additives as excipients for protein stability.
- (2) The stabilisation of biosensors and other analytical systems, including antibody stability.
- (3) The mechanisms of enzyme stability and structural aspects.
- (4) The stabilisation of enzymes for industrial applications.
- (5) Techniques for measuring protein stability and stabilising proteins.

Due to the number of presentations in areas 2 and 3, two sessions on these subjects were given on different days.

Not all presenters chose to submit full papers to this special edition of the Journal of Molecular Catalysis B: Enzymatic, however, those included here are a fair representation of the quality and content of this first conference in the series.

The conference series on Protein Stabilisation is designed to run on a biannual basis and it is hoped that as this area develops, the event will

become the main stopping off point for current research and news in the area of biomolecule stabilisation, world-wide.

I have the pleasure to inform you that the second conference on protein stabilisation, entitled: 'Biomolecule Stabilisation: *From Molecular Interpretations to Bio-Industrial Applications*' will take place in Lisbon, Portugal on the

9th–12th April 2000. Organising Committee: Professor Joaquim Cabral, Dr. Duarte Miguel Prazeres, Professor Steffan B. Petersen and myself, Dr. Tim Gibson.

I hope you enjoy this special edition and may I take this opportunity to invite you to the second conference in Portugal.

Dr. Tim Gibson