



Editorial

Proceedings of the Sixth International Symposium on Biocatalysis and Biotransformations (BIOTRANS'03), Olomouc, Czech Republic, 28 June–3 July 2003

Biotransformations and biocatalysis are rapidly moving from the laboratory benches to the production plants. Nowadays, biocatalysts account for approximately 60–70% of all catalytical procedures in the chemical industry. This reflects on international meetings dealing with biocatalysis, in which not only academics but also more and more industrial representatives take part.

We may say that ... “Biocatalysis is not everything but everything is nothing without biocatalysis...”.

One of the major series of the meetings devoted to biocatalysis is the BIOTRANS symposia series that was initiated in 1993 in Graz (A) BIOTRANS'93 followed by a number of highly successful biannual meetings.

The sixth conference of BIOTRANS'03 was assigned to the city of Olomouc (Czech Republic), a true geographical centre of Europe. BIOTRANS'03—Sixth International Symposium on Biocatalysis and Biotransformations (28 June–3 July 2003) gathered over 430 participants from 38 countries of all continents, young scientists being represented in more than 40%. Abstracts of more than 270 contributions were published in the journal of *Chemické Listy* 97(6), 2003, and the present issue of the *Journal of Molecular Catalysis B: Enzymatic* offers the full papers from most of the lectures presented at the conference.

The papers presented here were refereed according to the usual procedure of this journal and they cover the following issues:

- Enzymes in organic synthesis.
- Biotransformations of drugs.
- Deracemization and chiral synthesis.
- Biocatalysis in non-conventional media.
- Molecular mechanism of enzymatic catalysis and molecular modeling.

Enzyme engineering and stabilization.
Industrial case studies.

On this occasion, we would like to express our thanks to all distinguished scientists and also to all members of the Scientific and Organizing Committees for their highly valuable contributions that resulted in the success of the BIOTRANS'03 conference.

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Finally, it is our pleasure to invite the readers to participate in the next 7th Biotrans meeting—BIOTRANS'05—that will be organized in Delft, the Netherlands, in the period of 3–8 July, 2005 (www.biotrans2005.bt.tudelft.nl).

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