



Editorial

Foreword to the special JOMC issue on bioorganometallic chemistry

The biological aspects of organometallic compounds have been known for many years (for example, bioorganotin chemistry, *J. Organometal. Chem.* 93 (1975) C1; *J. Organometal. Chem.* 118 (1976) 41), while the actual term 'Bioorganometallic Chemistry' was first coined in 1985 (*Organometallics* 4 (1985) 2143; *Pure and Appl. Chem.* 57 (1985) 1865) to clearly denote the pertinent synergy between organometallic chemistry and biology. The initial progress in Bioorganometallic Chemistry, during the earlier period, was probably in the field of steroid hormones, with regard to their high-affinity nuclear receptor proteins, and in addition, the area of oxidation metabolism with cytochrome P450 enzymes, and their biomimics, as representative, but not all encompassing examples.

Bioorganometallic Chemistry can be thought to be the study of organometallic complexes with bioligands in water or organic solvents, and the use of these derived complexes in a variety of applications and basic research studies focused on synthesis and structural determinations, organometallic pharmaceuticals as anti-tumor agents and diagnostics, hosts for molecular recognition studies, homogeneous catalysis, and organometallic bioprobes, to name just several important categories. Therefore, recent interest in bioorganometallic chemistry was the deciding factor that prompted Richard H. Fish and Gérard Jaouen, over a typical French lunch in Paris in June 2000, to undertake the organization of the first International Symposium on Bioorganometallic Chemistry (ISBOMC'02) to be conducted. ISBOMC'02

was held in Paris at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Chimie de Paris (ENSCP) from July 18–20, 2002 and attracted 112 participants from 25 countries, with 30 lectures being presented by keynote and invited speakers, as well as oral contributions, flash oral poster presentations, and poster presentations.

Since the first ISBOMC meeting was so successfully received by the attendees, we have decided to continue having the meetings every 2 years; the next meeting will be held in Zurich, Switzerland from July 15–17, 2004, and will be under the leadership of Roger Alberto, chairman, and Nils Metzler-Nolte, as co-chairman. In this special issue of JOMC, we have organized various contributed manuscripts that were representative of what was presented at ISBOMC'02. With this special issue, and the one previously published, *J. Organomet. Chem.* 589 (1999) and papers therein, we hope the greater organometallic community will be inspired with the thought of furthering the field with new ideas and directions.

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