



## Preface

The XVIII IUPAC Symposium on Photochemistry, "Photochemistry into the New Century" took place from 22 to 27 July 2000 in the beautiful Saxon capital of Dresden, Germany. For 5 days, 470 photoscientists from 39 countries presented their new results in the form of lectures and poster sessions, made new contacts, renewed old friendships, and planned new projects for the future often during dinners in the fascinating beer gardens of the city. There was also a virtual Symposium, which was open to colleagues around the world and could be visited on site using specially located terminals.

The contributions to the Symposium were wide ranging, from basic aspects related to the interaction of light with inorganic and organic substances, biological materials, and supramolecular units, to physical aspects, ultrafast kinetics, environmental questions, and novel applications of photochemical knowledge, including solar energy conversion, photodetoxification of water, photocatalysis, and microelectronics, among others. There was a special lecture on the History of Photochemistry as well as a lecture on the History of the IUPAC Photochemistry Symposia. As is the tradition with the IUPAC-sponsored Symposia, the Plenary and Invited lectures will be published in a special issue of *Pure and Applied Chemistry*, edited by Jochen Kuhn and scheduled for publication in March 2001 (Vol. 73, No. 3).

During the Symposium, three workshops concentrated on special aspects of the photosciences. The workshop on Theoretical Organic (Photo)Chemistry was held in memory of Professor Michael Zerner, who died in February 2000. Mike Zerner, made important fundamental contributions to this area and was a contributor and frequent referee for the Journal of Photochemistry and Photobiology, and had agreed to participate in the Workshop. The authors of the papers presented at this workshop have been generous in providing us with manuscripts for publication in the *Journal of Photochemistry and Photobiology, A: Chemistry*. As a Guest Editor, I have the pleasure of presenting these four contributions to the workshop for publication in this special issue.

I am also pleased to have this opportunity to thank Thomas Wolff and his group as well as all the members of the local organizing committee who, with their excellent organization, made our week in Dresden a very pleasant and fruitful experience.

Silvia E. Braslavsky\*

Max-Planck-Institut für Strahlenchemie  
Postfach 10 13 65, 45413 Mülheim an der Ruhr  
Germany

Fax: +49-208-306-3951

E-mail address: braslavskys@mpi-muelheim.mpg.de  
(S.E. Braslavsky)