



## Editorial

## Introduction: Photochemistry and photophysics of cyclodextrin inclusion complexes

This special issue of the Journal of Photochemistry and Photobiology, A: Chemistry is devoted to the photophysics and photochemistry of cyclodextrin (CD) inclusion complexes. The interest in cyclodextrin chemistry has been growing quite rapidly and today CDs are involved in a number of important fields covering both basic and applied science in chemistry, biology and physics. At the beginning of 1970s, the chemical industry started to produce a large mass of CDs, which have been and are being used, for example, in synthesis, food, cosmetic, biology, pharmacy and nanomaterials. Fundamental researches on CDs have kept growing and from the 1980s, international conferences on topics related to these small and suit nanocavities became biannual. Now, it is difficult to estimate the number of contributions in this field, but one can bring it up to thousands using CDs as a host of different types of chemicals. Many of these contributions are published in specialised journals, reviews and books.

The goal of this special issue is to provide the state-of-the-art on photophysics and photochemistry of CD complexes in a few invited original contributions. Because of limited space, it was unfortunately not possible to invite "all" the photochemists and photophysicists working on this special topic. The issue contains 20 theoretical and experimental contributions. Photophysics and photochemistry of CDs are studied with an arsenal of experimental techniques. Steady-state and time-resolved (from millisecond to picosecond regime) spectroscopies have been used to characterise the

inclusion complexes and to elucidate their photorelaxation routes. The informations reported in these contributions give to the reader a picture on the current knowledge (until March 2005) one has on the photodynamics of CD complexes.

The Guest Editor takes this opportunity to thank Michiel Thijssen, the Publisher of the Journal at Elsevier, the Editors and Editorial Board Members for accepting this proposal made during the last IUPAC meeting on Photochemistry in Granada (Spain, July 2005). My thanks go especially to Prof. Monique Martin, The European Editor of the Journal, for her support and advises on editing and timely decisions on this issue. I wish also to thank all the Contributors and Referees for their efforts in producing, shaping and evaluating the high-level articles published here. I hope this issue will be of value not only to people working on this topic, but also to researchers working on related scientific fields of cyclodextrin complexes.

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