

Preface

Volume 17 of the *Journal of Photochemistry* is devoted entirely to papers presented at the Xth International Conference on Photochemistry held in Iraklion, Crete, Greece, September 6 - 12, 1981. This issue contains abstracts, while the companion issue consists of the invited papers. Thus the volume serves both as the set of working papers for the participants and as the official record of the conference proceedings.

International Photochemistry Conferences take place at 2 - 3 year intervals, the last two having been held in Cambridge (August 1978) and Edmonton (August 1975). They provide an unrivalled opportunity for meeting distinguished colleagues from all branches of photochemistry and for learning of the recent advances in the field. Smaller "informal" conferences are held in the U.S.A. in between the international meetings (Clearwater Beach, FL, January 1978; Newport Beach, CA, March 1980). The growing numbers of participants over the years at both the international meetings and the rather more specialized informal meetings point clearly to the enormous expansion of photochemistry as a scientific discipline.

The *Journal of Photochemistry* was conceived as an organ for physical photochemists. At a time when the Journal is considering a broadening in its scope, it is happy to offer the complete conference proceedings for the first time. The Organizing Committee and the Editor wish to express their warm thanks to Elsevier Sequoia S.A. for making the venture possible and for working to an extremely tight schedule. The Committee also wish to record their gratitude to the several agencies that have sponsored the Conference and that are listed overleaf.

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