

## Preface

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This special section is dedicated to Dr Michel Ollivon, who was born in Paris, 1946 and who passed away unexpectedly on 16 June 2007. He is an eminent scientist who devoted his research in the characterization of lipids and made significant contributions from fundamental biophysics to industrial applications, namely physical-chemistry of model membranes and self-assembling materials for therapeutics and for the food industry. He developed unique tools to characterize lipid mesophases from liquid crystals to solid crystals. The best known and remarkable one is Microcalix, a thermal analyzer, allowing simultaneous calorimetric and X-ray diffraction measurements, for which he won the Calvet price in 1999 awarded by the “French Association of Calorimetry and Thermal Analysis-AFCAT”. He was honoured as Hilditch memorial Lecturer of the Society of Chemical Industry in 2006 and received the Chevreul medal as posthumous award in 2008.

After defending his Doctorat d’Etat es Sciences Physiques in 1982 at the University Pierre et Marie Curie, Paris VI, on the subject “Contribution to the study of triglycerides: polymorphism and phase transitions,” he joined the CNRS in 1982 and founded the research group “Physico-Chimie des Systèmes Polyphasés” before becoming a senior researcher in 1992 and a member of Laboratoire Physico-

Chimie Pharmacotechnie Biopharmacie, UMR CNRS 8612 at the Faculty of Pharmacy in Châtenay-Malabry.

At the age of 61, Michel Ollivon was more fascinated than ever by the properties of lipid molecules, and he was enthusiastic, interested in new discoveries, and, particularly, concerned about the transmission of his knowledge about structural and thermal behavior of this class of compounds. He was, to many of us, from the field of public research or from private companies, PhD students, post-doctoral researchers, and to his colleagues, more than an extraordinary scientist, a friend who never begrudged his time, and was always available to help anyone, no matter whether the problem is technical or personal.

It is a great privilege for the members of the “Laboratoire de Physico-Chimie des Systèmes Polyphasés-LPCSP” and “Association Française de Calorimétrie et Analyse Thermique-AFCAT” to publish papers presented at the 2-day symposium organized at the Michel Ollivon’s memorial, at the Faculty of Pharmacy, University Paris-Sud XI in Châtenay-Malabry on 2nd and 3rd October 2008.

The organizing committee of this conference, Drs A. Angelova, C. Bourgaux, V. Faivre, G. Le Bas, and S. Lesieur, as well as the members of the “Laboratoire Physico-Chimie Pharmacotechnie Biopharmacie-UMR CNRS 8612” and, especially, its Director Prof. Patrick Couvreur and the Chairman of the “Association de Pharmacie Galénique Industrielle-APGI”, Prof. Elias Fattal, as well as the Guest Editors are very grateful to the Editors of the *Journal of Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry* and to the referees who reviewed the selected presentations for publication.

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