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Foreword

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Foreword

In this Special Issue we find a collection of papers that were presented at “Glupor VI,” the 6th International Meeting of the Portuguese Carbohydrate Group and the 3rd Iberian Carbohydrate Meeting. Glupor was initiated in 1995 by Prof. Amélia P. Rauter in Lisbon, Portugal and since then held biennially. The Carbohydrate Group of the Spanish Royal Society of Chemistry joined in 1999 to co-organize the 1st Iberian Carbohydrate Meeting in Aveiro, Portugal. The Iberian meeting was repeated triennially since then alternating between Portugal and Spain.

Glupor VI was held in Coimbra on September 11–15, 2005 and chaired by Prof. Helena Gil from the Chemical Engineering department of the University of Coimbra. The University is the oldest in Portugal, founded in 1290, and still vastly influences the life of the city. Conference location was the Hotel D. Luís with an excellent view to the Old Town and some University buildings on the hill on the opposite side of the Mondego River, the often cited “Poets’ River” flowing calmly towards the Atlantic.

The Glupor meetings are organized truly internationally, this time ten out of the 14 plenary speakers came from European countries outside the Iberian Peninsula and from the USA. A wide range of topics was covered during the conference which is also reflected in the selection of contributions in this issue. We can read about polysaccharide applications such as chitosan grafted membranes for use as wound dressings (P. Ferreira et al.) and on various physicochemical investigations on the interaction of copper ions with polysaccharides (in alginate gelation, J. R. Rodrigues and R. Lagoa) or cyclodextrins (A.C.F. Ribeiro et al.). The application of spectroscopic methods is well represented in an article on the quantification of glucuronides in urine by NMR (J. G. Jones et al.). Synthetic methods in this issue comprise contributions on the application of microwaves in synthesis (L. Cipolla et al.), electrochemical TEMPO oxidations (J. Kovensky and coll.), and a chemo-enzymatic synthesis of a sugar-derived δ -amino acid template (S. Dias Lucas et al.). Two interesting synthetic contributions (by I. Izquierdo et al. and by B. La Ferla et al.) describe approaches towards specific imino sugar derivatives. Further papers deal with intermolecular Pauson-Khand reactions (P. Areces et al.) and a chiral pool synthesis towards pironetin (F. Sarabia et al.). Last

but not least there are two reviews, one summarizing the work of the group of S. Jorosz towards hydroxylated decalins using allyl tin chemistry and the second by F. Nicotra and colleagues delivering an excellent overview on carbohydrate based scaffolds.

Enjoy the reading!

Hans Peter Wessel
Regional Editor