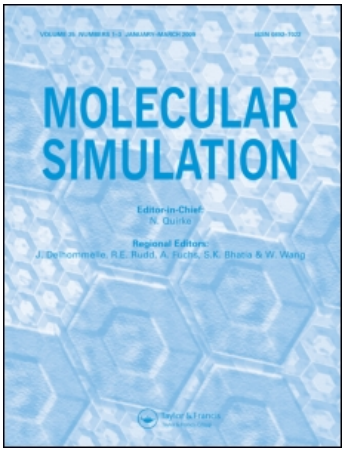

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Guest editorial

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Guest editorial

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This special issue of *Molecular Simulation* consists of the refereed papers arising from the conference *Molecular Modelling 2006* (*MM2006*) held at the Curtin University of Technology, Perth, Western Australia, from 19 to 22 April 2006. These series of meetings are held every 18–24 months and aim to bring together the modelling community in Australia, New Zealand, the Asia–Pacific region and other parts of the world. The members of the organising committee were Ricardo Mancera (chair), Julian Gale, Andrew Rohl, Mark Spackman and Sue Berners-Price and the Conference Secretary was Kate Wright.

Molecular Modelling is the major, annual event held in Australia in the area of computer simulation in the life sciences and physical sciences and now covers a wide range of research areas. Research presented ranged from topics in materials science to systems of interest to the biological sciences and involves the use of techniques from both quantum chemistry and statistical mechanics. The papers in this volume represent a good cross-section of the work presented at *MM2006* and also illustrate the wide range of areas covered by molecular modelling in Australia.

MM2006 saw the official launch of the Asia–Pacific chapter of the Molecular Graphics and Modelling society as the "home" organisation of the modelling community in Australia.

As always there were several distinguished overseas plenary speakers: Dr. Chandra Verma (Bioinformatics Institute, Singapore); Prof. Kyoung Tai No (Yonsei University, Korea); Dr. Jed Pitera (IBM Almaden Research Centre, USA); Prof. Brian Shoichet (University of California, San Francisco, USA); Dr. Jonathan Essex (University of Southampton, UK); Prof. Alessandro Laio (International School of Advanced Studies, Italy); Prof. Emilio Artacho (University of Cambridge, UK); and Prof. Simon Phillpot (University of Florida, USA).

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