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PREFACE

Special issue devoted to the III International Symposium on Macrocyclic and Supramolecular Chemistry (III ISMSC) July 13th–18th, 2008 The Riviera Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada

It is our great pleasure and privilege to introduce the selected articles contributed to the special issue of the Supramolecular Chemistry dedicated to the III International Symposium on Macrocyclic and Supramolecular Chemistry (III ISMSC). The symposium was organised by Professors Eric. V. Anslyn and Jonathan L. Sessler of University of Texas at Austin. This symposium was the third combination of two very long running symposia: The International Symposium on Macrocyclic Chemistry (ISMC) and The International Symposium on Supramolecular Chemistry (ISSC). Since these two areas of chemistry have become increasingly interrelated in their goals, methods and molecular designs, the Advisory Committees combined the two symposia, with the first unified conference being in Victoria, Canada in 2006. The combined symposium aims to bring together chemists from a variety of macrocyclic and supramolecular disciplines to present, discuss and brainstorm on the basic science and practical utility of these fields of chemistry.

The combination of the ISMC and ISSC symposia into one ISMSC proved to be a successful one. The approval was reflected by the community of scientists in the field. In fact, the III ISMSC broke most records in attendance, diversity of the topic covered, and presented lectures and posters. The symposium brought more than 350 attendees to sun-scorched Las Vegas in July! The reasons for the high attendance of the symposium were numerous. The main reason, however, was the abundance of excellent topic-oriented sessions focusing on the following topics: New Approaches to Supramolecular Chemistry, Foldamers, Medicinal Supramolecular Chemistry, Medicinal Macrocyclic Chemistry, Supramolecular Assembly, Capsules, Sensors, Cellular Imaging, Physical Organic Lessons in Molecular Recognition, Supramolecular Inorganic Chemistry, Membrane Transport, Neural Chemistry, Molecular Machines and Molecular Complexity. The 68 talks presented were divided into the above sessions. Furthermore, the symposium held two poster sessions displaying an additional 250 posters.

The carefully selected presenters highlighted the research of well-established groups in the field as well as younger investigators on the rise. Furthermore, the impressive poster sessions were designed to give opportunity to contributors who could not be invited to give oral presentations. Last but not the least, panel discussions were held at the end of each topic segment. These discussions were engineered to allow the audience to elicit a collective response from all the speakers within a certain topic.

It would not be Las Vegas without any fun, shows or even games. Therefore, part of the program included a “Texas Hold-’Em Poker Night” and tournament, and excursions to Grand Canyon National Park and Hoover Dam. These events accommodated the likes and personality of every attendee.

The attractiveness of the symposium is further evidenced by the record number of attendees and the unprecedented number of manuscripts submitted to this special issue. There were 41 full contributions in the form of full articles, mostly original research articles. Also, accounts and perspectives appear in this issue. These articles provided a snapshot across the field of supramolecular and macrocyclic chemistry, its current status and applications and, perhaps most importantly, a glimpse into the future of the field. As a collection, these articles provide a very interesting, diverse and intriguing exposure to various aspects of the supramolecular chemistry as well as a fitting testament to a great symposium.

We hope that the kind readers would enjoy this special issue, and perhaps consider attending the next symposium.

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Note: For practical reasons, the large collection of papers that resulted from this call for a special issue is being published in two sets (i.e. in the form of two double issues). The division between these two issues is being made largely on thematic grounds.