

## PREFACE

Traditionally, organic chemical investigations have been carried out in solvent media that are, on the average, isotropic, that is, randomly oriented in three dimensions, and isotropic dielectric constant, solvation and viscosity effects are well established.

However, as our understanding of "organized" media such as crystalline solids, liquid crystals, micelles, monolayers, zeolites, vesicles, host-guest assemblies, polymer matrices and surfaces has grown in recent years, it has become apparent that, because of their anisotropic properties, such media may exert unique effects on the spectroscopic and chemical behavior of included solute molecules. As a result, there has been an explosive growth in research on anisotropic medium effects during the past decade, and this Symposium-in-Print includes contributions from many leaders in the field.

As is evident from the names and addresses of the authors, research on anisotropic medium effects on chemical behavior has a particularly international flavor. No less than ten separate countries are represented in the present symposium. This is also reflected in the editorship of this issue. With co-editors in Canada, India and the United States, communication amongst the editors and with contributors has sometimes been slow. We apologize for any delay this may have caused and trust that the result is worth the wait.

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