

Introduction

Introduction to the ECCC8 Proceedings Issue of *Theoretical Chemistry Accounts*

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We are greatly pleased to introduce the Proceedings of the 8th Electronic Computational Chemistry Conference (ECCC8) for publication in this special issue of *Theoretical Chemistry Accounts*. The ECCC is an ongoing series of international virtual conferences which take place entirely on the World-Wide Web each year (<http://eccc8.cooper.edu>).

The first ECCC was conceived of, and organized by, Steven Bachrach [1]. A true pioneer of the online dissemination and discussion of research among chemists, Bachrach is also the editor and originator of the highly innovative *Internet Journal of Chemistry* [2]. ECCC1 was originally announced by Bachrach in 1993 and was held in November 1994. To the best of our knowledge, the ECCC is the first completely online scientific conference, and it appears to be the longest-running such conference as well. ECCC brings together scientists and engineers working in all aspects of computational chemistry, computational biology, cheminformatics, computational atomic, molecular and chemical physics and the history of computational chemistry. It is a free conference (no registration fees are ever charged) and is open to all. All presentations are viewable using only a web browser (and possibly a few chemistry-specific plugins), and many also make use of “hyperactive molecules” and other chemical Internet technologies to enhance the presentation. Discussions are held online, but are not archived.

There were approximately 250 registered participants in ECCC8, who perused and discussed 36 excellent presentations by scientists from all around the world (19 nations and five continents were represented by the presenting authors alone). The abstracts for all presentations were reviewed by the ECCC8 Scientific Organizing Committee: David Chatfield (Florida International University), Tom Cundari (University of Memphis), Walter Fabian

(Karl-Franzens Universität Graz), Jan M.L. Martin (Weizmann Institute), Francis Muguet (E.N.S. de Techniques Avancées), Mark Tuckerman (New York University) and Robert Topper (Cooper Union). Their participation ensured the continuation of the high standards of the ECCC. We are most grateful for their efforts.

The following 11 papers in these proceedings were the result of substantial additional effort on the part of the authors, and were subjected to peer review in partnership with the editor of *Theoretical Chemistry Accounts*. We are grateful to these authors and to the experts who reviewed these manuscripts prior to publication. We are also grateful to Chris Cramer for agreeing to publish these proceedings. A special acknowledgment goes to the members of the ECCC8 Web Team at Cooper Union: Kenneth Mui (webmaster), Timothy Isgro, Joseph Kirtland, Christopher Lent, Robert Hopkins and Alexander Tochilovsky. Financial support for ECCC8 was provided by the Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art's Albert Nerken School of Engineering. Finally, we would like to thank all of the authors and attendees for participating in ECCC8 and welcome them and all readers of these proceedings to join us at ECCC9, which is scheduled for March 2003 at <http://eccc9.cooper.edu>.

References

1. Bachrach SM (2001) In: Berry RS, Moffat AS (eds) The transition from paper: Where are we going and how will we get there? American Academy of Arts and Sciences, www.amacad.org/publications/trans4.htm
2. Bachrach SM (2001) In: Berry RS, Moffat AS (eds) The transition from paper: Where are we going and how will we get there? American Academy of Arts and Sciences, www.amacad.org/publications/trans9.htm