

FOREWORD

This special issue of *Croatica Chemica Acta* is entirely dedicated to the Congress of the Croatian Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, HDBMB₂₀₀₆, that was held in Vodice, Croatia, from 3 to 7 October 2006. The Congress was organized by the Croatian Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Society (formerly Croatian Biochemical Society) under the high auspices of Mr Stjepan Mesić, the President of the Republic of Croatia. The Congress was also under the auspices of the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports, Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts – Department of Natural Sciences, the Universities of Zagreb, Rijeka, Osijek, and Split, the Šibenik-Knin County, and the Town of Vodice.

The members of the Scientific and Organising Committee were Jadranka Varljen (President), Jerka Dumić (Vice-President), Zrinka Kovarik (Secretary), Roberto Antolović, Tihomir Balog, Karmela Barišić, Ljubica Glavaš-Obrovac, Irena Landeka, Sonja Levanat and Vladimir Mrša, and the junior members Maja Čalić, Sanja Dabelić, Gordana Maravić, and Goran Šinko. The meeting was a great success and the celebration of the 30th anniversary was splendid. It seems as though all participant enjoyed the traditional Dalmatian setting and hospitality.

About one hundred and fifty scientists from Croatia and abroad (Austria, Brazil, Germany, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, USA) participated in the Congress, including 27 invited speakers, 15 oral and 77 poster presenters. The plenary lecture was delivered by Professor Vito Turk. The Congress topics were Nucleic Acids, the Protein World, Cell Biochemistry, Molecular Bases of Disease and Therapy, Food and Nutrition, Ecology and Toxicology, New Technologies and Bioinformatics. This broad range of to-

pics provided a good basis for discussing the latest advances in biochemistry and molecular biology research. The programme also included a number of young scientists and PhD students, who had the opportunity to present the results of their own research. We wish to thank all of the participants who contributed to the memorable gathering at the HDBMB₂₀₀₆.

We are pleased that *Croatica Chemica Acta* has decided to dedicate one issue to the HDBMB₂₀₀₆ as was the case with our two previous meetings in 1994 in Opatija (CCA Vol. 68, No. 3) and in 2004 in Bjelolasica (CCA Vol. 78, No. 3). The issue you are now holding in your hands brings 23 scientific papers, four reviews and one note.

Sadly, this Congress was the last for our dear colleague and one of the Society's founders Professor Vera Gamulin, as she passed away soon after it ended. A goodbye note in this issue has been written by Ivana Weygand-Đurašević.

We would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all authors who contributed to this issue of *Croatica Chemica Acta*. We also wish to thank more than 100 reviewers for their valuable help. Our sincere gratitude goes to the Editorial Board of *Croatica Chemica Acta* for their support, but most of all, for giving the HDBMB₂₀₀₆ participants the opportunity to publish their results in one of the most prestigious Croatian scientific journals. It has been a great pleasure to be part of the *Croatica Chemica Acta* team.

Jadranka Varljen and Zrinka Kovarik
Guest Editors