

## Foreword

This is the second volume of contributions from the 36th Symposium of the European Marine Biological Association held at Maó, Menorca, September 17-22, 2001. The first one, containing the invited talks and entitled *A Marine Science Odyssey into the 21st Century* (*Sci. Mar.*, 65 (suppl. 2), 2001) was published before the symposium. Here we include some of the papers on algology, benthic ecology, aquatic biofilms, physical oceanography, plankton biology and ecology, pollution and enzymology that were presented orally or as posters. All of the papers have been peer-reviewed and we thank the more than 100 international reviewers for their aid in selecting and improving the manuscripts. Our editorial efforts would have ground to a halt without their charity. We are in their debt.

This meeting was conceived as an honor to Professor Ramon Margalef, whose practice of open curiosity-driven investigation inspired many of us on the organizing committee to enter science as a career. In pursuing this spirit of Margalevian science, six objectives were incorporated in planning the symposium and preparing this volume. These were: (1) to encourage cooperation rather than competition; (2) to stimulate the conception of future experiments through the discussion of past results; (3) to encourage the spirit of curiosity-driven investigation; (4) to encourage imagination, creativity, and innovation; (5) to minimize the costs of scientific communication, and (6) to encourage careful integration of new results into the multidimensional matrix of existing knowledge. We hope that the meeting participants and the readers of this volume benefit from this philosophy.

The symposium was held shortly after the tragic bombings of 11 September 2001 in New York and Washington DC. Air transportation in the USA was considerably disrupted depriving the symposium of some invited speakers. Other North American colleagues were able to reroute their flights to join us. We and the participants of the 36th EMBS wanted to formally extend to our North American colleagues solidarity and sympathy at the time of the crisis but were thwarted because the first volume had already been published. We take the opportunity to do so now in this volume. We thank all the invited speakers for sending their manuscripts to us in advance of the meeting. That policy and the invited speaker's adherence to it were a stroke of good fortune because independent of the attendance of the invited speakers, their contributions appear in volume I.

On behalf of the 400 plus scientists from five continents who attended this symposium, we thank the organizations and the people who made the meeting possible. The Universitat Internacional de Menorca Illa del Rei (UIMIR) contributed its Claustre del Carme for the poster presentations, for the traditional EMBS "yellow submarine" intellectual frolic, and for the mid symposium buffet dinner. In addition, the staff of the UIMIR under the directorship of Dr. Carles Carreras was vital to the operations of the symposium. The city of Maó, the Island Council of Menorca (Consell Insular de Menorca), and the Environmental Advisory Board of the Balearic Islands Government (Govern de les Illes Balears, Conselleria de Medi Ambient) all provided assistance in many ways.

Especially helpful was the use of the Teatre Principal for the oral presentations and as a coordination and information center. We are grateful to the Mayor of Maó, Mr. Artur Bagur, and to the President of the Consell Insular de Menorca, Ms. Joana Barceló, for their roles in providing

this support. In addition, we want to express our special gratitude to the people in the “front line” for keeping equipment running smoothly and for serving the participants in solving their day-to-day problems. We will remember and thank Enriqueta and the team from Viatges Magon; the technicians from Sonostudi; the manager from the Teatre Principal, the support of Eulàlia Olives from the City Hall; and especially, the coordinating team from UIMIR, Iolanda Fresnillo, Josep Castells, Angels Gonyalons, Dani Márquez, and all the students. Finally, we acknowledge the support of the Universities of Barcelona, of the Balearic Islands, and Jaume I of Castelló as well as that of the Marine Science Institute of Barcelona (ICM-CSIC). Without all these people and organizations working together to provide financial, material and personnel support we could not have hosted the 36th EMBS in Menorca.

The Editors