

Foreword

Dear readers and colleagues,

It is our great honour and pleasure to present the special issue of *Croatia Chemicals Acta* dedicated to Professor Mladen Žinić, Fellow of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts. We are delighted to present this themed issue on the occasion of Professor Mladen Žinić's 70th birthday in the year we are celebrating the 50th anniversary of supramolecular chemistry, marked by 1967 *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* communication of Charles J. Pedersen on novel complexation properties of crown ethers. This year we also celebrate 30 years of the Nobel Prize for Chemistry awarded in 1987. to Charles J. Pedersen, Donald, J. Cram and Jean-Marie Lehn.

Professor Mladen Žinić is the pioneer of supramolecular chemistry in Croatia. He established the first supramolecular chemistry group at the Ruđer Bošković Institute in Zagreb and developed extensive international collaborations. His work in areas of general supramolecular chemistry, macrocyclic chemistry, and self-assembly,

particularly in the field of low molecular-mass organic gelators and gelation phenomena, has been recognized by national and international scientific community. Professor Žinić's commitment to educating students at the Ruđer Bošković Institute, the Faculty of Science at the University of Zagreb, and the Department of Biotechnology at the University of Rijeka, has generated many successful scientists who have greatly contributed to the promotion of knowledge and scientific advances in Croatia and abroad.

This *Festschrift* in *Croatia Chemicals Acta* features testimonies to Mladen Žinić's lasting contributions to supramolecular chemistry and friendship. We express our sincere gratitude to all contributors who made this project possible.

Leo Frkanec, Davor Margetić, and Dražen Vikić-Topić
Guest Editors of the Special Issue
