

FOREWORD

The MATH/CHEM/COMP 2003 Dubrovnik International Course & Conference (MCC 2003) on the Interfaces among Mathematics, Chemistry and Computer Sciences was held from June 23–28, 2003, in Dubrovnik, Croatia, under the joint auspices of the Inter-University Centre, Dubrovnik, Ruđer Bošković Institute, Zagreb, Universities of Zagreb and Split, International Society for Mathematical Chemistry, and International Society for Theoretical Chemical Physics. MCC 2003 was the eighteenth in the series of annual meetings we started in 1986, and it attracted 100 participants from 20 countries, a large number of them students and young researchers.

The MCC meetings are traditionally oriented towards discussion of the interplay among mathematics, chemistry and computer sciences, and this continues. However, to keep pace with »hot« subjects and practical needs, we incorporate into our meetings special sessions, which vary from year to year. Two such sessions were offered at MCC 2003: *Session on Bioinformatics* (organized by Istvan Simon and Peter Stadler) and *Session on Chemoinformatics and Drug Discovery* (organized by Darko Butina).

From the very beginning, due care was taken to publish the results presented in Dubrovnik. As a result, twenty-five MCC Proceedings have been published thus

far in various distinguished scientific journals. Part of the results presented at MCC 2003 are published in this special and refereed issue of *Croatica Chemica Acta*, and twenty MCC 2003 papers have already appeared in the distinguished *ACS Journal of Chemical Information and Computer Sciences (JCICS)*, Vol. 44, No. 2 (2004) 289–426, which issue, edited by Dušanka Janežič (Ljubljana) and Ante Graovac (Zagreb & Split), was dedicated to Dr. George W. A. Milne in recognition of his long and remarkable service as Editor-in-Chief of *JCICS*.

The organization of MCC 2003 was possible in the first place due to the help of the Inter-University Centre in Dubrovnik, Ruđer Bošković Institute in Zagreb, University of Zagreb, and University of Split. The financial support of the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports of the Republic of Croatia, and PLIVA d.d. (Zagreb) is gratefully acknowledged. Special thanks for partial financial support go to SMS (Split), Profil (Zagreb), Wolfram Research-Systemcom (Zagreb), and Croatia Airlines. Many thanks are also due to the CCA Editor-in-Chief Academician Nenad Trinajstić, Mrs. Nada Trajkov, Mrs. Greta Prajdić and Mr. Miro Bajić for their patience and understanding as well as to the contributors and referees for their assistance.

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