

FOREWORD

The 2004 Congress of the Croatian Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, HDBMB₂₀₀₄, was held from September 30 to October 2, 2004 at Bjelolastica, Croatia.

Following a four-year absence, this Congress was a highly significant project for the Croatian Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. The objective of the Congress was to provide a synopsis of scientific research in the field of biochemical and molecular biology in Croatia, to call attention to the significance of life sciences and their relationship to biotechnology, pharmacology and medicine, and to exchange our most recent information and experience in the field of biochemistry and molecular biology with our global colleagues.

A particular scientific event within the frame of HDBMB₂₀₀₄ was the symposium dedicated to Professor Željko Kućan on the occasion of his 70th birthday. In honour of this distinguished scientist and pioneer of modern biochemistry and molecular biology in Croatia, the HDBMB₂₀₀₄ organizers decided to collect papers written

by his coworkers, colleagues and students and to publish them together with the Congress papers. An invitation was therefore extended to Professor Kućan's students and colleagues to contribute to this issue.

This special issue of *Croatica Chemica Acta* (CCA 78 (3) 2005), dedicated to Professor Kućan, is in your hands now. The issue includes papers written for the Congress of the Croatian Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, HDBMB₂₀₀₄, as well as those written in celebration of Professor Kućan's 70th birthday, ordered chronologically according to the date of their acceptance for publication.

I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the *Croatica Chemica Acta* Editorial Board for opening their pages to HDBMB₂₀₀₄ papers, as well as for their administrative and technical support.

Furthermore, I thank the authors and reviewers for their contributions and gracious group effort. It has been my privilege and pleasure to collaborate with you. Thank you all very much.

Karunela Barišić

Guest Editor