

## Conference Call

plenary lecturers and four invited lecturers. Unfortunately, there appears to be a trend of decreasing numbers of symposia participants from the USA, which is undoubtedly a real loss for international cooperation and exchange.

Apart from the large number of Spanish scientists and students, the nation with the largest number of participants was Japan. The active participation of a large number of Japanese colleagues, as well as the financial support of Japanese companies, has been a constant with the IUPAC-supported photochemistry symposia.

In the spirit of IUPAC, the symposium covered basic research as well as applied aspects of photochemistry, such as microlithography, solid-state luminescent devices, photoproduction of antimalarial drugs, photochemical and spectroscopic aspects of polymer studies, phototherapies, photocatalysis, and more. The scientific level of the symposium was very high as evidenced by very intense discussions after the presentations. The posters sessions were very lively, with the students and young researchers presenting their data with great enthusiasm.

The highest prize in the photochemical community, the Porter Medal, awarded jointly by the three photochemical societies (European Photochemical Association, Inter-American Photochemical Association, and Asian Photochemical Association) was awarded to Graham R. Fleming, from the University of California at Berkeley, who delivered one of the plenary lectures titled "Photosynthetic light harvesting."

During the symposium, there was a lunch meeting of the Subcommittee on Photochemistry of IUPAC's Division on Organic and Biomolecular Chemistry. Diverse problems associated with the various projects handled by the Subcommittee were discussed.

The efficiency and hospitality of the Spanish committee (headed by Bartolomé Quinteros, University of Granada) and the local organizers of the symposium were extraordinary. The social program enabled participants to enjoy the splendid buildings and monuments of Granada, in particular the Alhambra Castle and its gardens, remains of a great era in which science and tolerance flourished.

The next IUPAC-sponsored Symposium on Photochemistry is scheduled to be held 2–6 April 2006 in Kyoto, Japan, which will mark the first symposium held outside Europe. The scientific chairman is Masahito Irie, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, Graduate School of Engineering,

Kyushu University, Fukuoka, Japan.

Silvia E. Braslavsky <braslavskys@mpi-muelheim.mpg.de> was the IUPAC representative at the XX-IUPAC Symposium on Photochemistry. She is the German Representative on the IUPAC Organic and Biomolecular Chemistry Division, chairman of the Subcommittee on Photochemistry, and member of the Advisory subcommittee of the Physical and Biophysical Chemistry Division.

## Polymers and Organic Chemistry

by Karel Jerabek



The 11th International Conference on Polymers and Organic Chemistry 2004 (POC'04) was held 18–23 July 2004 in Prague, Czech Republic. The Polymers and Organic Chemistry (POC) conferences have a long tradition and they are organized in two-year intervals in various countries around the world (1982 Lyon, France; 1984 Lancaster, UK; 1986 Jerusalem, Israel; 1988 Barcelona, Spain; 1990 Kyoto, Japan; 1994 Venice, Italy; 1996 Wroclaw, Poland; 1998 Maa'ale Hachamisha, Israel; 2000 Tianjin, China; 2002 San Diego, USA).

The POC conferences have been the most important meetings of specialists engaged in research and/or application of functional polymers (e.g., polymer supports for reagents, catalysts or drugs, polymer adsorbents, etc.) The Prague conference, which featured 26 oral lectures, 9 keynote lectures, 8 plenary lectures, and 80 posters, attracted 115 scientists from 36 countries. This was probably the largest number of participating countries in the history of the conference series.

Topics covered included catalysis, polymers in medicine and biochemistry, separation science, electro-sensitive functional polymers, environmental chemistry, and synthesis of novel functional polymers. The breadth, scope, and quality of the contributions provided a clear demonstration that functional polymers' roles in organic chemistry continue to expand, a promising sign for the next conference, POC'06, scheduled to be held near Nagoya, Japan, in 2006.

Professor Karel Jerabek <kjer@icpf.cas.cz> is a senior research scientist in the Department of Diffusion and Separation Processes at the Institute of Chemical Process Fundamentals, in Prague, Czech Republic. Jerabek served as the conference chairman of the 11th International Conference on Polymers and Organic Chemistry.