During the conference, editor Eric Scriven briefly reviewed the journal's first five years of activity.

The opening ceremony took place at Massimo Theatre, a magnificent example of neoclassic architecture. On the stage, Prof. Girolamo Cirrincione (chairman of the congress), Prof. Domenico Spinelli (representative of SCI), Prof. David St. C. Black (representative of IUPAC), Prof. Marco Ciufolini (president of the ISHC), and Prof. Giuseppe Silvestri (rector of the University of Palermo) welcomed the participants. Since it was the 200th anniversary of the University of Palermo, the rector presented a brief history of the university and of Palazzo Steri, which now hosts the offices of the rectorate.

Two outstanding members of the ISHC were honored during the conference's social banquet, held at the Palazzo Guglielmo, Monreale: past Secretary Prof. Hans Neunhoeffer and past President Prof. Steven Weinreb. Each received a plaque recognizing his enormous contributions to the organization. In addition, Hans Neunhoeffer was named a Fellow of the ISHC. During the banquet, awards were also presented to two young scientists, Dr. Atsuko Ochida from Hokkaido University and Dr. Clara Cena from the University of Torino, for the best poster presentations.

The congress was successful in that it attracted a large number of delegates discussing their latest results, presenting opportunities for suggestions for novel research ideas and for the creation of new relationships.

The main topics, covering the whole range of heterocyclic chemistry, offered an interesting insight into several promising fields of science that have an important role in improving the well-being of humans and their environment. The oral and poster presentations attempted to emphasise the state-of-the-art in key areas of the heterocyclic science as well.

Members of the heterocyclic community are invited to join the next ICHC, to be held in Sydney, Australia, on 15–17 July 2007 <www.chem.unsw.edu.au/research/conferences/ichc2007.html>. On behalf of the organizing committee, the authors would like to wish success to the 21st International Congress and to its chairman, Professor David St. Clair Black.

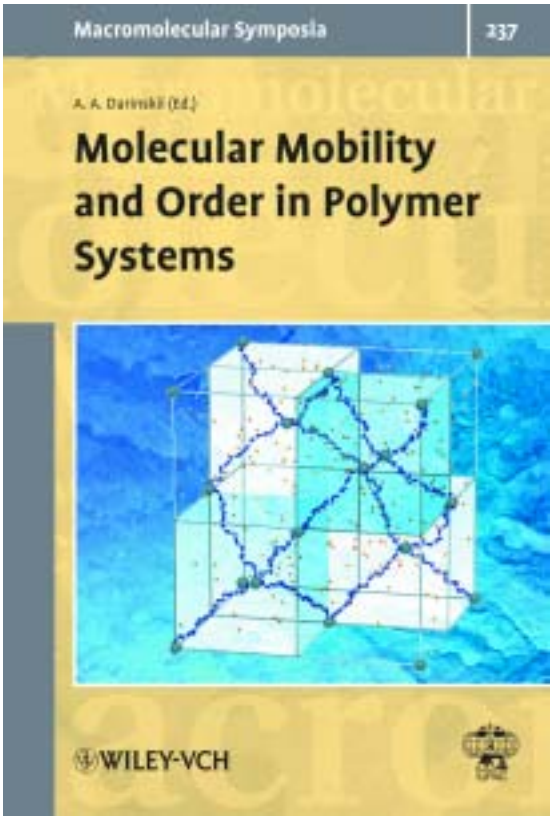
Girolamo Cirrincione <gcirrinc@unipa.it>, a professor at the Università di Palermo, was chairman of the 20th ICHC. Anna Maria Almerico <almerico@unipa.it>, also a professor at the Università di Palermo, served as secretary.

Molecular Mobility and Order in Polymer Systems

by Anatoly Darinskii

The **5th International Symposium on Molecular Mobility and Order in Polymer Systems**, sponsored by IUPAC, was held at the Scientists House (the former Great Duke Vladimir's Palace) in Saint Petersburg, Russia, 20–24 June 2005. The palace is located on the Neva river embankment and is one of the most beautiful in St. Petersburg. The symposium was organized by the Department of Chemistry and Material Science of the Russian Academy of Sciences, the Polymer Council of the Russian Academy of Sciences, and the Institute of Macromolecular Compounds of the Russian Academy of Sciences. The meeting was supported by the Russian Foundation of Basic Research and the St. Petersburg Research Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

The symposium was the latest of a series of St. Petersburg meetings on macromolecules, the first of which was held in October 1994. These meetings are



the most important international gatherings of polymer scientists in Russia. They provide a venue in which young scientists and more experienced researchers have the opportunity for close, friendly contact with the leading specialists in the various domains of polymer science.

The symposium included 21 plenary lectures, 60 oral presentations, and more than 210 posters by attendees from 29 countries in Europe, Asia, and the Americas. The primary focus was on the structure and dynamics of polymer systems that combine order and pronounced molecular mobility (i.e., systems with so-called "soft" order). Many such systems arise under certain conditions during the process of self-organization, and many change their structure in reaction to even small changes in these conditions.

Such systems are in the mainstream of modern polymer science and are the reason for the high level of interest in the symposium by both Russian and foreign scientists. Numerous scientists working in theoretical physics and the computer modeling of polymers also traditionally attend these meetings. Many studies presented at the symposium were conducted as collaborative efforts between Russian and Western researchers within the framework of international scientific projects and grants.

In addition, special effort was made to attract young scientists. More than 50 students presented their results at poster sessions. Reduced registration fees for young scientists and for some researchers from less-developed countries promoted their participation in the symposium. Financial sponsorship by IUPAC made it possible to partially cover the expenses of young participants from countries of the former Soviet Union.

Plenary lectures were presented in the White Hall of the palace. Contributed talks were held in two parallel sessions. Two eminent specialists from Russia and abroad chaired each session.

The symposium program covered six broad topics:

- Macromolecules in Solutions, Melts, and Networks Oriented and Stretched in Strong External Fields
- Liquid Crystalline Polymers
- Copolymers and Polymer Blends
- Polymer Layers and Micelles
- Polymer Complexes and Membranes
- Polymer Networks of Different Topologies, Branched and Star Polymers, and Dendrimers

Information from the symposium program can be found online at <www.macro.ru>. A selection of contributions (some plenary lectures and selected oral/poster presentations) appear as full papers in volume 237 (March 2006) of *Macromolecular Symposia* <www.iupac.org/publications/macro/2006/237_preface.html>.

Anatoly Darinskii <adar@imc.macro.ru>, head of the laboratory of the theory and modeling of polymers at the Institute of Macromolecular Compounds, Russia Academy of Sciences (IMC RAS), served as chairman of the symposium.

Chemistry in Kenya—Its Contribution to a Healthy Environment and Socio-Economic Development

by Sidney F.A. Kettle

In July 2005 the Kenyan Government announced a 5-year plan under which, by 2010, 50 percent of all university students will be scientists. This project served as a fitting background for the 5th Annual International Conference organized by the Kenya Chemical Society, which took place at Kenyatta University, Nairobi, on 22–26 August 2005. The author also attended the first of these meetings and was thus able to make a comparison that showed a clear evolution over the last several years.

Funds are most readily available for research relevant to the Kenyan economy, and so it is understandable that a good portion of the papers presented at the conference dealt with local plant products (particularly those with medicinal potential) and local environmental issues (particularly turning waste into useful materials). However, between the two meetings that the author attended, there has clearly been an increase in collaboration between Kenyan scientists and research groups in developed countries. This collaboration enabled, at the most recent meeting, presentations reporting on work entailing the use of