

Preface

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23rd IUPAC Conference on Physical Organic Chemistry (ICPOC-23)

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The 23rd IUPAC Conference on Physical Organic Chemistry (ICPOC-23) was held at the University of New South Wales, Sydney, from July 3rd–8th, 2016. The ICPOC series was inaugurated in Switzerland in 1972 and has been run every 2 years since then, though this was the first time it had been held in Australia. Along with the more traditional areas of physical organic chemistry (including reactivity, mechanism and structure), the programme of presentations at this conference demonstrated the diversity of fields to which the subject can be effectively applied including biology, materials science, and supramolecular and systems chemistry.

The conference was well attended with 300 attendees, from 35 countries and every permanently inhabited continent. This led to a broad, stimulating programme with over 140 lectures presented (including those by Nobel Laureate Arieh Warshel and the world's most cited chemical scientist, George Whitesides) along with 80 poster presentations that we hope comes through in this special issue of *Pure and Applied Chemistry*. In addition to the scientific programme, the conference included an extremely popular conference dinner (with 180 attendees), a cruise on Sydney Harbour and a very successful Forum on the Future of Chemistry, all of which allowed for stimulating discussions, sometimes in a less traditional environment!

As co-chairs, we would like to express our gratitude to everyone who supported this conference, from the attendees through the various members of our committees to our extensive list of sponsors; we would particularly like to acknowledge our principal sponsors – School of Chemistry, University of New South Wales; Faculty of Science, University of New South Wales; The Australian National University; The Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology, University of Queensland; The Office of the Chief Scientist and Engineer, New South Wales State Government; Systems Chemistry Australia.

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