

Preface

I am happy to note that *Radiochimica Acta*, the premier journal in the field of nuclear and radiochemistry, is publishing a special issue on some selected invited talks delivered at the Second International Conference on “Application of Radiotracers in Chemical, Environmental and Biological Sciences (ARCEBS-10)” held at the Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, Kolkata, India, during 7–13 November 2010.

The Institute of Nuclear Physics, one of the leading research institutes in India, was established in 1950 by the famous physicist Professor Meghnad Saha and was formally inaugurated by Madam Irene Joliot-Curie on 11 January 1950. It was renamed as the Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics (SINP) after the untimely death of Professor Saha in 1956. The institute has been engaged in fundamental research on nuclear physics, biophysics and nuclear chemistry with other subject areas since its day of foundation. With such a rich tradition of research in basic nuclear sciences and interfacial areas in SINP, the ARCEBS series of conference was initiated in this institute in 2004 as a national level discussion meeting. The overwhelming response to that meeting motivated us to organize the first international conference on the same topic (ARCEBS-06) in this institute during 23–27 January 2006, with participants from 27 countries all over the globe. The spontaneous participation and overwhelming response of the international community was repeated in ARCEBS-10 also. The Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics celebrated its diamond jubilee in the year 2010. The organization of ARCEBS-10 was an attribute to the 60 years’ glorious history of the institute.

The most distinctive feature of ARCEBS-10 was its multifaceted nature. The conference gathered scientists from various disciplines of science – physics, chemistry, biology, medicine, agriculture and many others – with the common thread of using radioactive isotopes or energetic ion beams as a tool of their investigation. Considering the importance of such interdisciplinary conference in radiotracer research, Professor S. M. Qaim who is an authoritative figure on accelerator produced radioisotopes, the coordinating editor of *Radiochimica Acta* and a supporter of long-standing relations between the Forschungszentrum Jülich (Germany) and the SINP, agreed to publish selected invited talks in a dedicated and special issue of *Radiochimica Acta*. I believe that this special issue will have immense reference value for the scientific community working in the same field for many years. My sincere thanks and deepest appreciation to Professor Qaim for bringing out such a nice issue.

The next conference in the ARCEBS series, *i.e.* ARCEBS-14, will take place in 2014. The horizons of radiotracer research are continuously widening, and more participation from a variety of disciplines is expected. Therefore the definition of ARCEBS is broadened. I am sure the scientists all over the globe will again gather in the Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics in 2014 with broader definition of ARCEBS, “Application of Radiotracers and Energetic Beams in Sciences”. I personally welcome you all.

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