

Preface

During the editing of this Special Issue we were all deeply saddened by the news that Dr. Peter Mitchell had passed away on the 10th of April, 1992. Dr. Mitchell can no doubt be considered father and champion of modern bioenergetics. The importance of his contributions is of such magnitude that no-one's work in this field has been unaffected. We present-day researchers owe so much of our concepts and patterns of thinking to him that it seems most appropriate to dedicate this Special Issue to his memory and to the greatness of his life's work.

The Special Issue contains contributions of invited lecturers to the 7th European Bioenergetics Conference (EBEC), held in Helsinki, Finland, in the last week of July, 1992. We are grateful that most lecturers accepted to put their contribution into the form of a short paper, to benefit not only the participants of the Conference, but the entire bioenergetics community.

Although a Special Meeting issue, all contributions to this volume have undergone the normal peer review procedure of *Biochimica et Biophysica Acta* to ascertain high scientific quality. Many contributions can be considered brief overviews of the respective topic, which may be of value especially for students of bioen-

ergetics, but also for specialists. Others represent more detailed research reports on most recent progress. The article by Dr. Helmut Beinert, who is to give the Introductory Lecture at the Meeting, is a unique historical essay on the early steps in scientific research that provided the foundations of the modern bioenergetics that we experience today. This present issue is thus altogether more heterogeneous than conventional issues of *Biochimica et Biophysica Acta*. However, I believe that this may provide the Bioenergetics section of this Journal with some stimulating additional flavour that is sometimes warranted, also in science.

Finally, I wish to thank Professor Karel van Dam, Managing Editor of *Biochimica et Biophysica Acta*, for his invaluable help in the planning and realization of this Special Issue. The staff of Elsevier Science Publishers, in Amsterdam, and Satu Sankkila, Anne Puustinen and Tuomas Haltia in Helsinki, are gratefully acknowledged for their help in the editing process.

Mårten Wikström
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