

## Professor Michel Mandel

### An appreciation

This Festschrift issue of *Biophysical Chemistry* is the result of a Symposium honoring Michel Mandel on reaching his 65th birthday. The quality of the contributions expresses Michel's own high standing in the field of research of his choice: Physical chemistry of macromolecules and polyelectrolytes, including biopolymers. Michel was born in 1926 and studied in Brussels and Uppsala. He has been professor of Physical Chemistry at the Gorlaeus Laboratory of Leiden University since 1961, following in the footsteps of illustrious predecessors.

In 1973 Michel Mandel founded the successful journal *Biophysical Chemistry*, which performs an important function in recording contributions devoted to the Physical Chemistry of biological phenomena. He has been principal editor of the Journal since its inception and has contributed to its success. In an opening editorial in the first issue Michel states the objectives of the Journal and mourns the death the year before of Aharon Katzir-Katchalsky, "one of the pioneers in the physico-chemical approach to biological phenomena", who was actively engaged in the prepara-

tions leading to the establishment of the Journal.

I was asked by Michel Mandel to join the board of editors of the Journal in 1977 and have enjoyed this activity ever since. That year I was privileged to write a review on the early history and problematics of polyelectrolytes, commemorating 5 years since the tragic death of Aharon.

In 1974 Michel Mandel edited a book on Polyelectrolytes. Yet, a most important contribution, containing much of his own work was, in 1988, a critical definitive review on Polyelectrolytes in volume II of the *Encyclopedia of Polymer Science and Engineering*, 2nd edn., Wiley, New York, NY, pp. 739–829. Here historical, experimental and theoretical aspects of this major field of science are extensively discussed.

It is my great pleasure to congratulate Michel Mandel on reaching this age of wisdom, and *Biophysical Chemistry* on reaching the 18th year of maturity, and to wish both much continuing happiness and success in the future.

HENRYK EISENBERG