

## Preface

The presentations given at the 11th International Biophysics Congress between July 25–30 1993 in Budapest, Hungary represented a very high-class sample of the most up-to-date results of the community of biophysicists from all over the world. Fortunately, the selection of the panel of speakers by a broad International Program Committee, which was subsequently critically discussed and finally approved by the IUPAB Council more than a year before the Congress, proved to be a successful effort. The monitor of success is always the negative feedback of the audience who are many times not lesser experts than the speakers themselves. After the Congress the judgement, and criticism as well, is much easier than when maintaining the possible highest professional level and the complex problem of a real international selection and different national sensitivities during the organization. The seven plenary lecturers (among them two Nobel-Laureates) and the nearly one hundred and forty symposium speakers did their best to justify their selection. More than a thousand posters also displayed remarkable new data and interesting opportunities to discuss new ideas and future trends.

The Principal Editor of this distinguished biophysical journal, invited all plenary and symposium speakers to publish their data presented at the Congress in this Special Issue of *Biophysical Chemistry*. Those who could accept the kind invitation sent in their manuscripts and now everybody has the great opportunity to read this selection of the lectures.

The origin of biological information, molecular dynamics, protein crystallography, structure of macromolecules at atomic resolution, spectroscopy of single molecules, the secrets of biological membranes, contractile systems, sensory organs, information transduction, new techniques, in short, a rich harvest of practically all modern branches of biophysics had been presented at the Congress. The present Special Issue offers twenty papers from the best presentations. I hope the readers will find the issues valuable, providing revealing insight into exciting biophysical problems and a flavour of the meeting.

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Chairman of the Program Committee