

Foreword

This special issue of Biophysical Chemistry celebrates the 10th anniversary of the Gibbs Conference on Biothermodynamics. For ten years, the Gibbs Conference has been held in Carbondale, Illinois, in the attractive natural resort of 'Touch of Nature' and has consistently and increasingly attracted the most outstanding scientists in the field of biological thermodynamics. Gary Ackers and Wayne Bolen, two of the founding fathers of the Gibbs Conference, nicely summarize the history of this conference in the introductory article to this issue. To them and to the other founding fathers James Lee, Ernesto Freire, Norma Allewell, Kenneth Breslauer, Ken Dill and

the late Stanley J. Gill, former Editor of Biophysical Chemistry, go our deepest appreciation. Their scientific work and support to the field have enhanced the visibility of biological thermodynamics and its importance among related disciplines. This special issue contains outstanding contributions from many of the research laboratories that have been key to the success of the Conference and the field of biological thermodynamics throughout the years. I am grateful to all the contributors for a job well done.

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