

Foreword

Second International Meeting of the Portuguese Carbohydrate Chemistry Group, Porto, Portugal, 21–25 September 1997

The Second International Meeting of the Portuguese Carbohydrate Chemistry Group was held at the Meridien Park Atlantic Hotel in Porto, Portugal, on 21–25 September 1997. The meeting was mostly organized by industry, specifically a sugar refinery, RAR, with a scientific contribution from the university. This is not common in the area and contributes to the collaboration between industry and university.

There were 120 participants and 15 accompanying persons from Europe, the United States, Canada and Japan. Important specialists in carbohydrates from all over the world were present, justifying the excellent standard of the lectures. In fact, the diversity of the presentations, both oral and poster, as well as their high interest level, was greatly appreciated.

The Association of Sugar Refiners from Portugal promoted scholarships of participation for students from Portuguese universities. This allowed 27 students from eight universities to be present.

The sessions dealt with topics such as the synthesis, analysis and chemistry of carbohydrates, and their importance to the pharmaceutical, agrochemical and food industries. Aspects of sugar processing research were also discussed.

Dr. Gary R. Gray (USA), Dr. Margaret Clarke (USA),

Professor Pierre Sinaÿ (France) and Professor Johannes F.G. Vliegthart (The Netherlands) gave plenary lectures. Invited Lectures and Oral Communications also took place during the three-day sessions.

Thirty-two poster communications were also displayed. The best poster award was presented to a Portuguese university for a communication entitled “Rheological characterisation, under steady shear, of a polysaccharide (lactan) obtained via fermentation of whey-related media” by M.E. Pintado, J.A. da Silva and F.X. Malcata, Escola Superior de Biotechnologia, Porto, Portugal.

With regard to social events, there was a reception in a Porto wine cellar, which included a visit and wine tasting; a musical evening at the Palácio da Bolsa; a Congress Dinner with traditional music and dancing from Porto; and a full day excursion to a wine producer in the Douro River Valley.

The next Glupor International Meeting will take place at the University of Aveiro, Portugal, in 1999.

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