



Foreword

Nikolay Konstantinovich Kochetkov was a dominating figure both as stature and personality of carbohydrate science during the second part of the 20th century. He and his school had a major influence on the development of new concepts and methods for the synthesis of glycosides, oligo- and polysaccharides. They also contributed significantly to the structural elucidation of numerous oligo- and polysaccharides of biomedical interest and methodologies thereof. It was then thought appropriate to publish, at the occasion of the first anniversary of his death, a thematic issue of *Carbohydrate Research* devoted to the 'Synthesis and structure of glycans' both subjects of immense importance for the rapidly expanding domain of glycobiology. The present issue contains 32 contributions including six review articles, mostly from past co-workers and friends of

Nikolay, integrating and expanding the many facets of these very active fields of research for which he was a pioneer. The life and major achievements of Nikolay are also recalled by three among his closest collaborators. Two of them, namely Leon Backinowsky and Andrei Nikolaev, were in charge of structuring this special issue as guest editors. It is our hope that this thematic issue will stimulate and challenge the fertile ground of glycochemistry/glycobiology, a favourite field of research for Nikolay, while paying a tribute to a scientist who made an exceptional contribution to organic chemistry and especially to the chemistry of carbohydrates.

Jacques Defaye
Editor