

## Preface

The papers in this volume were based on oral presentations delivered at the 16th International Symposium on the Photochemistry and Photophysics of Coordination Compounds (ISPPCC), held at the Asilomar Conference Grounds in Pacific Grove, California, a part of the California State Park system. The symposium was attended by 113 participants from 18 countries.

The first ISPPCC was held in 1974 in Mühlheim, Germany, and the International Scientific Committee has attempted to keep it on a biennial schedule since then. It is interesting to look back at the ISPPCC presentations over the years. At the 7th ISPPCC, held in Schloss Elmau, Germany, in 1987 a large segment of the papers were on chromium(III) complexes, and an even larger segment dealt with excited state properties of tris(bipyridine)ruthenium(II) and related complexes. The debate between proponents of a localized excited state and a delocalized excited state was intense. A high proportion of the remaining papers dealt with photochemical processes.

The theme of supramolecular photochemistry and the design of molecules with separate centers for light harvesting and for photoredox or other functionality began to surface at the 8th ISPPCC in Santa Barbara, California, in 1989, and has grown steadily since then. The 13th ISPPCC in Lipari, Italy, was notable for the number of presentations on new ideas for molecular photonic devices.

While no particular theme arose from the presentations at the 16th ISPPCC, it is interesting to note that chromium photochemistry and photophysics are in hiatus, and that even while the ques-

tion of the character of the lowest excited state of  $[\text{Ru}(\text{bpy})_3]^{2+}$  has still not been conclusively answered, that debate was tangential rather than directly addressed by contributions to the program. Solution photochemistry is still an active research area, but not nearly to the extent seen in the first several symposia. An emphasis on the design of complexes for particular purposes, sensors or photovoltaic devices, for example, can be discerned and has been a growing theme.

The papers in this volume represent well the range of topics presented at the 16th ISPPCC. Abstracts from the 56 oral and 59 poster presentations can be downloaded from the conference website, <http://www.scu.edu/chemistry/isppcc16>.

The organizers would like to thank the corporate sponsors of the 16th ISPPCC and also the donors of the Petroleum Research Fund of the American Chemical Society, which provided travel funds for several speakers from countries outside the USA.

The 17th ISPPCC is scheduled to be held in July, 2007, in Dublin, Ireland.

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