EDITORIAL

This special issue of ten papers was collected from speakers at the 4th International Symposium on Spin Trapping and Organic EPR Spectroscopy with Applications in Chemistry, Biology and Medicine, held at the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation (OMRF) in Oklahoma City on October 24–28, 1993. All papers went through the normal journal review process. Funding for speakers and plenary lecturers was provided by OMRF through internal funding sources arranged by President William G. Thurman. Additional funding came from the George Soros International Science Foundation (for travel for visitors from Russia) and the national Center for Research Resources of NIH Biomedical Research Technology Program. Financial contributions from FISONS, BRUKER, VARIAN and Cambridge Isotopes are also gratefully acknowledged. Four plenary lectures were given in the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center: S. Nishimura, W.A. Pryor, I. Fridovich and B. Halliwell and 40 talks were presented on a variety of topics ranging from basic theoretical chemistry to medical applications. In addition, nine young investigators gave papers on recent research discoveries in their laboratories. An active poster display stretched through the foyer and along the hallways of OMRF. A ballot vote selecting the next site for the 5th symposium was cast by majority for York University (Dr. Michael Davies, Department of Chemistry, University of York Heslington, York, UK) probably spring 1996. A few programs with abstracts are still available and can be obtained by writing to us. Also, the special issue in this journal of the 3rd International Symposium on Spin Trapping and Aminoxyl Radical Chemistry (Kyoto, Japan, November 22–24, 1991) became available just in time for distribution to the authors present at the symposium (*Free Radical Research Communications*, Volume 19, Supplement 1, S1–S230 (1993)). Extra copies of this issue are also available and can be requested by communicating with us.

During this time it seems many are digging deeper in an attempt to understand the spin trapping process in greater detail while at the same time exploring the usefulness of nitrone spin traps as prophylactic agents. A concern that the probe may alter the system it was sent to probe may turn out to be a blessing instead.

Edward G. Janzen[1], Coit M. DuBose* and Yashige Kotake*

National Biomedical Center for Spin Trapping and Free Radicals. Free Radical Biology and Aging Research Program, Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, 825 NE 13th St., Oklahoma City, OK 73104 U.S.A.

[1]Alternative address: Departments of Clinical Studies and Biomedical Sciences, MRI Facility, Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario, N1G 2W1, Canada

*Guest editors.