

This issue of *Macromolecular Symposia* contains selected papers, presented at the 11th International Symposium on Macromolecule-Metal Complexes (MMC-11), sponsored by IUPAC, that was held in Tirrenia (Pisa, Italy) on 10-13 September 2005 and was chaired by R. Barbucci (Siena) and F. Ciardelli (Pisa). The congress was part of the series of regular biennial meetings of the MMC group focusing on the synthesis of artificial combinations of metal ions/metals, ligands and macromolecules with the aim to get new materials with a variety of properties.

Around 170 participants from 30 countries demonstrated by their contributions the increasing interest and exciting progress in the field of the Macromolecules Metal Systems and Complexes (MMC) that is devoted to the synthesis of artificial combinations of metal ions/metals, ligands and macromolecules.

The meeting was organized by the University of Pisa and University of Siena with the sponsor of the European Polymer Federation, AIM (Associazione Italiana di Scienza e Tecnologia delle Macromolecole), Soc. Pol. Sci. J. and Chem. Soc. J. Congress topics included: biological aspects, synthesis; formation and characterization; environmental applications; binding of small molecules, sensors; catalysis and photocatalysis; conductivity, photocon-

ductivity, ionic conductivity; electronic, optical and magnetic applications; alternative processes of energy conversion.

The programme coverage was granted by a number of specialists as invited speakers covering some basic areas and new developments of MMC. 20 lectures were presented by invited speakers and additionally almost 100 oral and poster presentations were provided by the other participants.

A relevant part of these presentations of high technical value is now reported in an extended manner in this special issue in form of 14 review style papers derived from the invited lectures and 14 original papers chosen among the contributed papers by the participants. It is our feeling that the content of this dedicated volume provide an up to date contribute of the scientific research and possible applications of monomolecular metal complexes including the state of the art of general topics and some new original results.

As guest editors we like to express our thanks to all contributors and to Dr. Andrea Pucci and Mrs. Beatrice Pistoiresi for all the paper work and editing of the various chapters.

*R. Barbucci,
F. Ciardelli,
G. Ruggeri*