

Fibrillar Networks as Advanced Materials Indo-French Symposium

This three-day symposium was organized by Prof. Arun Khumar NANDI, Indian Association for the Cultivation of Sciences, Kolkata, India and Prof. Jean-Michel GUENET, Institut Charles Sadron, CNRS, Strasbourg, France. It was held at Institut Charles Sadron (Strasbourg, France) from September 21st to 23rd. This Indo-French symposium was entirely sponsored by IFCPAR-CEFIPRA (Indo-French Center for the Promotion of Advanced Research, Centre Franco-Indien pour la Promotion de la Recherche Avancée), a joint Indian-French governmental organization for promoting scientific collaborations between India and France.

The topic of this symposium dealt with microfibrillar networks, that are materials belonging to the realm of *finely-divided matter*. These materials are of special interest both for basic and applied research. The understanding of the *formation mechanisms* and the *thermodynamic properties* together

with the determination of the *molecular structure* of such networks represent major challenges to basic research, while their special microfibrillar morphology offers applications such as filtering membranes, encapsulating media, food thickeners, nucleating agent, substrates for living tissue reconstruction, and the like. Microfibrillar networks can be obtained through two different systems: from *polymer solutions* giving rise to *thermoreversible gels* and from *organic molecules solutions*, that self-assemble and produce *organogels*. This symposium was aimed at bringing together organic chemists working on organogels from self-assembled systems, and polymer physical chemists working on fibrillar thermoreversible gels. This volume of *Macromolecular Symposia* contains almost all the contributions made by the participants.

Jean-Michel Guenet

Arun Khumar Nandi