

The 4th European Symposium on Biopolymers (ESBP 2007) was held in Kusadasi (Turkey) on October 2–4, 2007. The emphasis of this meeting was on the molecular basis and production of biopolymers and their applications in the exciting fields of biotechnology, biomedicine and in nanobiomaterials. The Symposium was a unique opportunity to bring together researchers from a variety of disciplines, regions and expertise. During the symposium young and established researchers met with internationally renowned experts to exchange ideas, learn about the hot topics and the trends in the field, and initiate collaborations. Thus, it was a very fertile environment for everyone for expanding knowledge and contacts.

In order to organize such a meeting experts were needed to help select topics, evaluate and classify papers and chair sessions. Profs. Carlos Cabello (U. Valladolid, Spain), José Luis García (CIB-CSIC, SEBIOT, Spain), David Hulmes (CNRS, Lyon, France), Claudio Migliaresi and Antonella Motta (U. Trento), Auxiliadora Prieto (CIB-CSIC, Spain), Rui L. Reis (U. Minho, Portugal), Julio San Roman (ICTP-CSIC, Spain), Alexander Steinbüchel (U. Munster, Germany), Michel Vert (CNRS, U. Montpellier 1, France), and Manfred Zinn (EMPA, Switzerland) served as the International Scientific Committee. Our local committee consisted of Profs. Nesrin Hasirci and Gamze Torun Köse and our graduate students, who made this Symposium run smoothly.

At the meeting more than 120 participants from 16 countries were present. There were 7 sessions where 45 oral and

71 poster presentations were made. The topics ranged from biopolyester production using bacterial systems and mechanisms to biopolymers used in drug delivery devices, in tissue engineering, in microengineering of cellular microenvironment and in microfluidic systems. Prof. Alexander Steinbüchel, an expert on metabolism and biotechnological production of polyhydroxyalkanoates, polyamides, lipids and waxes and other biopolymers gave the Plenary Talk of the meeting titled Peculiarities and Perspectives of Biopolymers.

For the present volume 20 papers were selected by our referees from those submitted by the participants. It will be noticed by the reader that the topics presented here are concentrated on the biopolymer production, mechanism and biotechnological and biomedical applications. Nano-related papers were not included in this edition to focus more on the biopolymeric aspects of the field and to be more consistent with the title of the series.

I thank the International and Local Committee members, our Plenary Speaker, all the participants at the symposium as well as the contributors of this volume for making the field of biopolymers richer and more exciting. I thank Hayriye Özçelik and our other graduate students for their efforts in getting the manuscripts in a form suitable for publishing. Finally, I thank Wiley-VCH for enabling us to present our research findings to the international scientific community. I gratefully acknowledge the financial support of Scientific and Technical Research Council of Turkey in the organization of ESBP 2007.

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