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Introductory Comments

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INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

This Symposium builds on and is topically similar to those organized previously by us at the 1984 and 1989 International Chemical Congresses of Pacific Basin Societies. All three Symposia have been very well attended and extremely successful, due mainly to the rapid pace of advances in the field of low-dimensional and conducting and superconducting solids. There is also an ever expanding interest in these materials by scientists in the fields of chemistry, physics and materials science, as widely diverse physical characterization efforts are increased due to the novel properties of these materials. Organic synthetic metals continue to be of high current interest and driven by new developments in the field, such as, for example, recent discoveries that have led to a doubling in the number of organic superconductors. Organic conducting solids, especially superconducting systems, continue to garner interest due to the expanding number of similarities they share with the high T_c copper oxide superconductors. These findings suggest that much higher T_c's are possible for organic synthetic metals. It certainly appears that this entire field will continue its rapid growth as new materials, and enhanced knowledge and understanding of their properties, steadily evolve. We hope to meet again in Honolulu in 2000 to celebrate the many discoveries that will emerge between now and then!

February 23, 1996

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