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Editorial

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EDITORIAL

This issue of *Molecular Simulation* contains selected papers from the virtual conference 'Applications and Methodology of Molecular Simulation in the Physical and Biological Sciences' held April/May 1999. The conference, sponsored by *Molecular Simulation*, brought together experts, in a wide range of disciplines encompassed within the physical and biological sciences, using molecular simulation and related techniques. An important aim of the meeting was to foster cross fertilisation of ideas, algorithms and applications between disciplines. The conference was produced by Virtual Environments International (VEI: <http://www.vei.co.uk/>). There were six sessions each lasting 48 hours, three on applications: Frontiers of Materials Science, Novel Applications in Chemistry and Physics, Computer based Modelling, Simulation, and Analysis of Biological and Pharmacological Systems and three on methodology: Advances in Mesoscale Simulation Methodology, Non Equilibrium and Monte Carlo Simulation and Advances in Quantum Simulation. Papers were prepared in HTML format prior to the conference and placed in the Library area of the Conference Centre. On the first day of each section, invited lecturers were given 30 minutes to present highlights of their work in a three hour session starting at 4 pm and ending at 7 pm local UK time (11 am–2 pm east coast USA, 8–11 am west coast USA). There were also contributed papers (10 minutes) and discussion sessions on the second day of each section which expanded to accommodate extra material as necessary. During the lectures delegates were able to chat online to fellow attendees and put questions to the lecturer.

The session chairs were:

Frontiers of Materials Science

Prof. Alain Fuchs and Prof. C. R. A. Catlow

Novel Applications in Chemistry and Physics

Prof. Donald Brenner and Dr. Deepak Srivastava

Computer based Modelling, Simulation, and Analysis of Biological and Pharmacological Systems

Prof. Graham Richards and Dr. Jeffrey L. Nauss

Advances in Mesoscale Simulation Methodology

Dr. Julia Yeomans and Dr. Dave Nicolaides

Non Equilibrium and Monte Carlo Simulation

Dr. J. M. D. MacElroy and Dr. Grant S. Heffelfinger

Advances in Quantum Simulation

Dr. Dominic King-Smith and Dr. M. C. Payne

The web based format proved to be very successful and a productive time was had by all. The total number of people registered for the conference was 1004 and an average of 80 people logged on each day. I am very grateful to the conference chairs, the speakers and the staff at VEI for helping to make this unique meeting a success.

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