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Guest editorial

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GUEST EDITORIAL

IAN SNOOK

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Issues 28(8-9, 10-11) of *Molecular Simulation* consist of refereed papers arising from the Sixth Australian Molecular Modelling Conference, MM2000 which was held at RMIT University in Melbourne, Australia from 5th to 8th of December 2000. This conference is fast becoming an annual tradition for the Australian molecular modelling community and provides a mechanism to bring together members of this community and also enables them to meet with overseas workers in this area. Over the years the conference has grown in size and broadened its base considerably and now includes modelling of chemical, physical, biological, pharmaceutical and material systems.

This conference attracted over 150 registrants from Australia and overseas including a large contingent of postgraduate students working in the field as well as many of the leading researchers in Australia in this area. It was also very pleasing to have been able to attract many overseas participants including such keynote speakers as Professor Richard Catlow, Professor Michele Parrinello, Professor Laszlo Patthy, Professor Michael Finnis, Professor Kurt Kremer, Professor Walter Thiel, Dr Shoba Ranganathan, Dr David Porter, Dr Holger Gohlke, Dr Akbar Nayeem and Dr David Case. Topics ranged widely including such areas as the fundamentals of non-equilibrium simulations, Density Functional Theory, polymers, industrial applications in minerals and pharmaceuticals, protein modelling, drug design and bioinformatics.

Finally, it was encouraging that the conference attracted many sponsors namely Tripos, SGI, RMIT University, ANGIS, The ANU Supercomputer Facility, Biota, CSIRO Divisions of Health Science & Nutrition, Molecular Science and HPCCC, The Cooperative Research Centre for Polymers, FUJITSU,

The Cooperative Research Centre for Cellular Growth Factors, MSI, Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research, Institute for Molecular Bioscience, WEHI, Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute, The Australian Key Centre for Microscopy and Microanalysis, John Curtin School of Medical Science and BAE Systems.

These papers provide an overview of what was presented at the conference and what is being done in Australia in this area. A full set of abstracts and a full list of participants may be found in *Proceedings of the 6th Australian Molecular Modelling Conference*, Editors Irene Yarovsky and Ian Snook, ISBN 0864590814.