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Nucleosides, Nucleotides and Nucleic Acids

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Preface

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PREFACE

This special issue of Nucleosides and Nucleotides contains the Proceedings of the 11th International Round Table on Nucleosides and Nucleotides and Their Biological Applications which was held in Leuven (Belgium) on 7-11 September 1994 under the chairmanship of Prof. Dr. Erik De Clercq. The Round Table took place at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven in the Aula P. De Somer, named after Prof. Dr. Piet De Somer who was the first president (Rector) of the autonomous Katholieke Universiteit Leuven from 1968 till his death in 1985.

The 11th International Round Table commemorated a number of anniversaries: the 20th anniversary of the birth of the Round Tables in 1974 in Montpellier (France); the 10th anniversary of anti-HIV chemotherapy, which started in 1984 with the discovery of suramin as an anti-HIV agent; the 40th anniversary of the Rega Institute, which was founded in 1954 by Prof. P. De Somer; and the 20th anniversary of the start of the nucleoside/nucleotide program at the Rega Institute.

That we are celebrating the 20th anniversary of the conception of both the International Round Tables and the Rega Institute's nucleoside/nucleotide program is reflected by the composition of the Organizing Committee responsible for the organization of the 11th International Round Table: Prof. Jan Balzarini, Prof. Piet Herdewijn and Prof. Erik De Clercq from the Rega Institute, and Prof. Jean-Louis Imbach (Montpellier, France) and Prof. Leroy B. Townsend (Ann Arbor, Michigan) who were both at the origin of the First Round Table now 20 years ago.

After the First International Round Table took place in 1974 in Montpellier (France) under the auspices of Prof. J.-L. Imbach; the Second was held in 1976 in San Francisco (California) jointly with the American Chemical Society and chaired by Prof. Leroy B. Townsend; the Third in 1978 in Montpellier (France), chaired by Prof. J.-L. Imbach; the Fourth in 1981 in Antwerp (Belgium), chaired by Prof. Frank Alderweireldt; the Fifth in 1982 in Research Triangle Park (North Carolina), chaired by Dr. Janet L. Rideout, Dr. L.M. Beecham III and Dr. D.W. Henry; the Sixth in 1984 in Montpellier (France), chaired by Prof. Jean-Louis Imbach; the Seventh in 1986 in Konstanz (Germany), chaired by Prof. Wolfgang Pfleiderer; the Eighth in 1988 in Orange Beach (Alabama), chaired by Dr. John (Jack) A. Secrist III and Dr. John A. Montgomery; the Ninth in 1990 in Uppsala (Sweden), chaired by Prof. Jyoti B. Chattopadhyaya; and the Tenth in 1992 in Park City (Utah), chaired by Prof. Arthur D. Broom.

The Eleventh International Round Table drew more than 300 participants from 29 countries (Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brasil, Byelorussia, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Maroc, Norway, Poland, Russia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The Netherlands, United Kingdom, U.S.A.). There were a

total of 260 presentations, 220 being poster presentations, the others existing of both lectures and seminars. All authors presenting a lecture, seminar or poster were offered the opportunity to submit their paper(s) for publication in the Proceedings issue of the Round Table, provided that they delivered their manuscript(s), at the latest, by the end of the Meeting. A total of 190 authors followed this advice, and this special issue of Nucleosides & Nucleotides thus contains the majority of the papers presented at the 11th International Round Table. These papers cover the whole area of nucleosides, nucleotides and oligonucleotides, their chemical synthesis and characterization, biophysical and biochemical properties, and biomedical applications.

It is hoped that in the future, the International Round Tables on Nucleosides and Nucleotides, the Journal "Nucleosides & Nucleotides" and the International Society of Nucleic Acids Chemistry, which is primarily focused on nucleosides and nucleotides, will coordinate their efforts to the benefit of both the Journal and Society, and the Round Tables as well.

As the Organizer of the 11th International Round Table, I want to acknowledge the support obtained from Burroughs Wellcome (USA), Wellcome (Belgium), Gilead Sciences Inc. (USA), Ajinomoto Co., Inc. (Japan), Genta Inc. (USA), Grünenthal GmbH (Germany), Rhône-Poulenc Rorer (France), Isis Pharmaceuticals (USA), Generale Bank (Belgium), Roche (Belgium), Berlin-Chemie (Germany), Pfeifer & Langen (Germany), SmithKline Beecham (Belgium), Gensia Inc. (USA), Janssen Research Foundation (Belgium), Abbott Laboratories (USA), Yamasa Corporation (Japan), Eurogentec (Belgium), Syntex Inc. (USA), BioChem Therapeutic Inc. (Canada), Hoechst (Belgium), Roche Products Ltd. (United Kingdom), Bristol-Myers Squibb (Belgium), Canberra Packard (Belgium), Johnson Matthey Inc. (USA), Upjohn Company (USA), Warner-Lambert Company (USA), Amersham (Belgium), Analis (Belgium), Beun-de Ronde (The Netherlands), Filter Service (Belgium), International Medical Products (Belgium), Sopachem (Belgium), Glaxo (Belgium), Boehringer Mannheim (Belgium), Vel (Belgium) and the International Science Foundation.

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On behalf of the Organizers of the 11th International Round Table, Prof. Jan Balzarini, Prof. Piet Herdewijn, Prof. Jean-Louis Imbach and Prof. Leroy B. Townsend,

Prof. E. De Clercq