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Nucleosides, Nucleotides and Nucleic Acids

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Preface

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PREFACE

This special issue of *Nucleosides & Nucleotides* contains the Proceedings of the XIII International Round Table on Nucleosides, Nucleotides and their Biological Applications which was held on September 6-10, 1998 at « LE CORUM », a Congress Center located in the heart of Montpellier, a sunny historical city on the French Mediterranean region.

As chairmen of the XIII International Round Table, Drs Gilles Gosselin and Bernard Rayner were pleased to dedicate the conference to Prof. Jean-Louis Imbach and Prof. Leroy B. Townsend who are the « fathers » of the first and second Round Tables, held in Montpellier on October 28-30 1974 and in San Francisco on August 30 - September 1, 1976, respectively. Also, they would like to remember Sir Derek Barton, who was a member of the XIII International Round Table International Committee, as well as Profs Gordon Shaw and Richard T. Walker, both of them having significantly contributed to the development of various Nucleic Acid fields.

The XIII International Round Table has gathered more than 600 participants coming from 34 countries. Participants wishing to present a poster or an oral communication were requested to submit an abstract. From all the submitted abstracts, 411 were accepted for poster presentations and 26 for oral presentations, in addition to these presentations were 11 plenary lectures. Most of the presenting participants chose to contribute papers for these Proceedings, papers covering the whole area of nucleosides, nucleotides and oligonucleotides, concerning the state of the art of the chemistry, structural

aspect, various properties and, biological and chemotherapeutic applications of nucleic acid component derivatives.

During the conference, awards have been made to four presenting students or young investigators for innovative works displayed as poster. The award-winners, two in the field of Nucleosides-Nucleotides (Mrs A. Esposito, Università di Sassari, Italy and Dr. N. E. Fahmi, University of Hull, UK) and two in the field of Oligonucleotides (Dr. A. Bryant-Fiedrich, University of Basel, Switzerland and Mr. P. Potier, Faculté de Pharmacie de Strasbourg, France) were selected by Committees of Senior Scientists.

As one of the Organizers of the XIII International Round Table, I would like to point out that many supports contributed to the success of this Conference. In this regard, generous sponsorships from numerous Statutory Organizations and from Chemical and Pharmaceutical Companies were absolutely essential. I wish to thank Mrs Marie-Christine Bergogne especially for her excellent administrative work, as well as all the individuals of the International and Local Committees who efficiently helped to the organization of the scientific program and social events.

Finally, I would like to congratulate all the speakers and poster presenting scientists for the relevance and high quality of their displayed works.

And I express my best wishes for the XIV International Round Table to be Organized by Drs Norbert Bischofberger and John Martin in San Francisco, California, USA in September 10-14, 2000.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Gosselin', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dr. Gilles Gosselin