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## Phosphorus, Sulfur, and Silicon and the Related Elements

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### Preface

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## PREFACE

It is a pleasure to introduce this special issue of *Phosphorus, Sulfur, and Silicon* which consists of the Proceedings of the XIIIth International Conference on Phosphorus Chemistry, held on July 16–21 in Jerusalem, Israel. The Conference attracted 366 participants and 54 accompanying persons from 32 countries, among these 86 from Eastern European, formerly communist, countries. The largest delegations were: France (25), Germany (74) Israel (77), Poland (22), Russia (38) UK (40) and the USA (56).

The Conference was held in the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza Hotel, where about a third of the participants stayed. Most of the other participants stayed in hotels within walking distance from the Conference venue. The Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza has pleasant ambiance, excellent facilities and a great deal of experience in hosting successful scientific meetings. It proved to be an excellent choice.

The structure of the scientific program was similar to previous ICPC's in the series, insofar as not having plenary sessions except for the opening one. The scientific program started with a lecture given by Professor Robert R. Holmes entitled "HORIZONS IN PHOSPHORUS CHEMISTRY" which was the only plenary in the Conference. Following this, the 175 oral presentations were split to five parallel sessions to accommodate the many faces and multidisciplinary implications of phosphorus chemistry. In addition, there were 274 posters presented in two sessions.

In order to reflect recent advances in life sciences, our goal was to have in this meeting a strong representation of the bioorganic and biomedical aspects of phosphorus chemistry, in addition to all the traditional aspects which were represented in the previous ICPC's. We considered that exposing the phosphorus chemists' community to these new frontiers and opportunities for development, will widen horizons and stimulate the conception of new ideas. To achieve this, there was a need to attract scientists who normally do not participate in such a Conference. Thus, we contacted several pharmaceutical companies, medicinal chemists, biochemists and biologists. We succeeded at least partially in this goal, as it is apparent from the various special minisymposia:

- \* Biologically active bisphosphonates (7 lectures)
- \* Phosphorus related abzymes (8 lectures)
- \* Nucleotides (8 lectures)
- \* Phospholipids (7 lectures)
- \* Biological applications of P-31 NMR spectroscopy (4 lectures)
- \* Phosphorus containing NMDA antagonists (6 lectures)
- \* Inositol phosphates (7 lectures)
- Phosphorus containing agrochemicals (6 lectures)

In addition to these, there was a general bioorganic-medicinal session (9 lectures) as well as sessions devoted to computational phosphorus chemistry (4 lectures), inorganic phosphorus chemistry (9 lectures), coordination chemistry (26 lectures) and to flame retardants (4 lectures). Still, as in previous ICPC's the major portion of the Conference consisted of contributed presentations in various aspects (synthetic, structural and mechanistic) of organophosphorus chemistry (70 lectures).

One of the risks one takes when organizing a Conference in a place like Jerusalem (*there is no place like Jerusalem – so central in the history of three major religions: Judaism, Christianity and Islam*), is that many of the participants may find touring the city more attractive than attending the Conference. I think we overcame this difficulty successfully, as both the lectures and the poster sessions were all very well attended. The Conference participants were rewarded with a social program which included a sound and light show at the Tower of David Citadel along the wall of the Old City, a reception and a visit in the

Israel Museum (containing among other unique exhibits, the famous "Dead-Sea Scrolls") hosted by the Municipality of Jerusalem, as well as a half day tour of selected sites and sights of the city. The conference ended with a farewell dinner.

We wish to acknowledge the donations received from the numerous institutions and companies (their list appears at the page preceding this preface) which enabled us to extend financial support to needy participants especially from the Former Soviet Union and other Eastern European Countries.

Finally the Chairman wishes to thank all the members of the National and International Committees, and last but not least, all the participants, without whom this Conference could not have succeeded. We look forward to meeting again in Cincinnati in 1998.

Eli Breuer  
(Chairman, XIIIth ICPC)