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

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:

<http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~content=t713618290>

### PREFACE

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Online publication date: 12 August 2010

**To cite this Article** Allen, Christopher W.(2004) 'PREFACE', Phosphorus, Sulfur, and Silicon and the Related Elements, 179: 4, 649 — 650

**To link to this Article:** DOI: 10.1080/10426500490426304

**URL:** <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10426500490426304>

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## PREFACE

This special issue of *Phosphorus, Sulfur, Silicon and the Related Elements* is devoted to the proceedings of the *Tenth International Symposium on Inorganic Ring Systems* (IRIS X) which was held during August 17–22, 2003 at the Sheraton Conference Center adjacent to the University of Vermont in Burlington, Vermont, USA. The fact that IRIS has reached the milestone of its tenth meeting and has been an active agent of worldwide exchange of scientific information is to be celebrated. IRIS does not have the administrative apparatus of any professional organization but rather is driven by volunteerism and the commitment of its participants to the ongoing excitement of this field of research. The symposium maintains a balance between its historic roots in chemistry and at the same time strives to capture current trends along with future developments. This duality is well expressed by the theme of IRIS X “Inorganic Rings, Clusters and Cages from the Molecular to the Nanoscale” and can be seen reflected in the diversity of the contributions which follow in this Symposium Proceedings volume. Over 140 participants from 17 countries came to the symposium. This is only the second time that IRIS has been held in the United States. The peaceful and beautiful setting of Vermont allowed participants to take full advantage of the 10 invited lectures, over 60 submitted oral presentations, and over 50 posters. In keeping with the innovation of “Flash Reports” introduced at IRIS IX, brief oral introductions to selected posters were presented. This highly successful option, not only serves to focus well deserved attention on the posters, but increases the degree of active symposium participation especially by younger scientists. IRIS X had sufficient social activities built in so that the participants could renew the many friendships they made attending previous symposia and make new ones as we welcomed new colleagues to the IRIS community.

The running of the complex activity of IRIS X and editing the proceedings would not have been possible without the hard work of the staff provided by the Vermont EPSCoR program and the University of Vermont Chemistry Department. In addition to their tireless work on behalf of the symposium, they were the core of the accompanying persons program. They enjoyed meeting the participants and

accompanying persons as much as the IRIS community enjoyed meeting them.

Finally, we thank all of the participants for coming to Burlington to share our mutual chemical interests and enjoy Vermont.

Christopher W. Allen  
Burlington, November 2003

## PREVIOUS INORGANIC RING SYSTEMS SYMPOSIA

IRIS IX	2000	Saarbruecken, Germany Chairman: Michael Veith
IRIS VIII	1997	Loughborough, United Kingdom Chairman: J. Derek Woollins
IRIS VII	1994	Banff, Canada Chairman: T. Chivers
IRIS VI	1991	Berlin, Germany Chairman: R. Steudel
IRIS V	1988	Amherst, MA, United States of America Chairman: R. R. Holmes
IRIS IV	1985	Orsay, France Chairman: H. Garcia-Fernandez
IRIS III	1981	Graz, Austria Chairman: E. Hengge
IRIS II	1978	Gottengen, Germany Chairman: O. Glemser
IRIS IB	1977	Madrid, Spain President: E. Gutierrez Rios Vice-President and Chairman: H. Garcia-Fernandez
IRIS I	1975	Besancon, France Chairman: H. Garcia-Fenandez

IRIS XI will be held in Oulu, Finland in the Summer of 2006. Further details may be obtained from the Chairman of IRIS XI, Risto Laitinen, Department of Chemistry, University of Oulu, PO Box 3000, FIN-90014 Oulu, Finland. E-mail: [risto.laitinen@oulu.fi](mailto:risto.laitinen@oulu.fi)