

PREFACE

The plenary lecturers were selected on the basis of representation from countries having active centres of research in carbohydrate chemistry and with a view to featuring the modern currents of this important field of chemistry and natural products. More than ever before this meeting emphasized the close link of carbohydrate chemistry, biochemistry and biological sciences. The divisional programs ranged from Medical Aspects of Carbohydrates to Carbohydrates in Industry with bacterial polysaccharides and enzymology prominently featured.

The topics of the plenary lectures provide an overview of the program itself. Synthesis and characterization are more and more dedicated to helping elucidate the structures and conformations of antigenic and recognitive oligosaccharides. Some of the forefront topics of carbohydrate research were covered in three workshops which were part of the symposium program: High Performance Liquid Chromatography; Nuclear Magnetic Resonance; and Computational Methods for Conformation Analysis.

Besides the plenary lectures, there were 74 "oral" and 300 "poster" presentations during the Symposium. Although those communications will not be published as such, a book of Abstracts was prepared for the participants and copies are available from: Conference Services Office of the National Research Council of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0R6.

Deep appreciation is expressed to all the lecturers and participants. Every contribution was part of the record which made this a memorable scientific event. This document is a written proceedings which should speak for all the participants.

My task as editor has been made simple by the professionalism of the contributors to this issue. Many of the developments, described herein, are so pioneering that it was impossible to enforce rigid nomenclature rules and for this I assume the blame. Finally, my secretary, Jane Brandsma, has shown a rare talent for organizing, correcting/retyping the photo-ready forms and I want to thank her on behalf of all my colleagues. Some of the Figures were redrawn by Mark Jurman, resident artist at our laboratory, to ensure proper legibility after photoprocessing.

R. H. MARCHESSAULT, Symposium Editor

HISTORY OF THE INTERNATIONAL CARBOHYDRATE SYMPOSIA

International conferences on Carbohydrate Chemistry were held in Edinburgh and Gif-sur-Yvette during 1960. The former was organized by the Chemical Society and the latter by the CNRS and the Societe de chimie biologique. Informal discussions were subsequently held by representatives of carbohydrate groups of several countries and, with R.L. Whistler playing a prominent coordinating role, an organization began to evolve for ensuring the regular organization of these symposia. The International Steering Committee for Carbohydrate Symposia has a national representative from "each country having centres of active research in carbohydrate chemistry". The President serving at any time was the national representative of the last country to host a symposium. The following International Symposia have been held since 1960, with individual direction by the National Representatives indicated.

2nd Birmingham, 1962	M. Stacey	7th Bratislava, 1974	S. Bauer
3rd Munster, 1964	F. Micheel	8th Kyoto, 1976	N. Onodera
4th Kingston, 1967	J. K. N. Jones	9th London, 1978	W. G. Overend
5th Paris, 1970	J. E. Courtois	10th Sydney, 1980	S. J. Angyal
6th Madison, 1972	R. L. Whistler		

From the 1970 Paris meeting onwards, all the Symposia have been sponsored by IUPAC, the affiliation having been initiated by informal meetings during the IVth IUPAC Symposium on the Chemistry of Natural Products in Stockholm in 1966. In 1979, the Committee was formally recognized by IUPAC as an "Associated Organization". The earlier meetings were normally designated as "International Symposium on Carbohydrate Chemistry". At the same time, however, it was widely recognized that the involvement of biochemistry and biochemists in the regular Symposia was increasing steadily. At the Sydney meeting, the Committee met with the General Secretary of the International Union of Biochemistry (W. J. Whelan) in order to seek affiliation with the IUB on a basis similar to that already arranged with IUPAC and, on the same occasion it was decided to change the name of the Steering Committee to the International Carbohydrate Organization. Subsequently, the Executive Committee of IUB has established an Interest Group Committee of which the International Carbohydrate Organization is a member.

G. N. RICHARDS, Secretary, ICO