

Preface

The Eighth International IUPAC Conference on Organic Synthesis was held in Helsinki (Finland) during 23-27 July 1990. The Conference was attended by 830 participants drawn from 49 countries. Most of the plenary and invited lectures presented at the Conference are published in this issue of *Pure and Applied Chemistry* in accordance with the previous traditions of this series of meetings. Some 44 oral short communications and 310 posters presented reflect the growing global importance of the subject. The Conference, in particular, benefitted from new ideas from the younger generation (up to age 30) of workers in the field, including a large number of women chemists. Another novel feature involved the online display of computer programs relevant in organic synthesis.

The year 1990 also marks the anniversary of the University of Helsinki which was founded in 1640. The Finnish nation and the city of Helsinki are justifiably proud of the developments in the University of Helsinki which is increasingly being recognized in the country as the National University. The University's Faculty of Science and Chemistry Department, in particular, have made significant contributions to the Finnish industrial expertise and progress. The Association of Finnish Chemical Societies and the Federation of Chemical Industry in Finland have been generous in their support - financial, moral and deployment of staff and resources - to the success of the Conference. The Deputy Mayor of the city and the Rector of the University of Helsinki have personally supported the Conference as well as hosting social events.

The National Organizing Committee wishes to put on record the work of the following younger staff whose contributions and patience in dealing with all organizational matters were much appreciated by the participants.

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