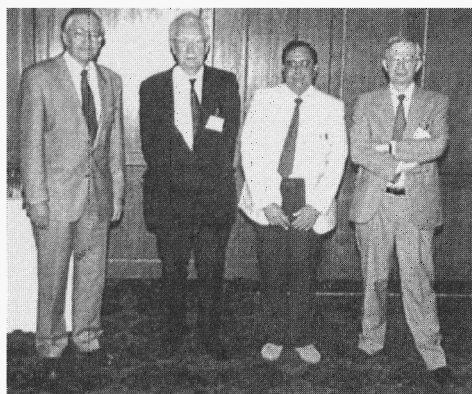


**L to R:** B. Şener (Turkey), G.A. Miana (General Secretary, Chemical Society of Pakistan), Atta-ur-Rahman (Chairman, Organizing Committee), W. Voelter (FRG), D.H.R. Barton (USA), S. Ito (Japan, IUPAC representative), D. Walton (UK), and R.J. Parisa (USA, Chairman, Organizing Committee, 20th Symposium, Chicago, IL, USA, 1996)

## Preface

Natural Product Chemistry is experiencing some rather dramatic developments at the present time. This has been brought about by rapid advances in the field of stereoselective methods in organic synthesis, new sophisticated techniques for the separation and identification of bioactive natural products, and the integration of bioassay procedures with the isolation processes. A greater emphasis on the use of biodegradable natural pesticides, medicinal compounds of natural origin and other biological agents as well as recent technological advancements in instrumentation have all contributed to the "renaissance" of natural product chemistry in the past two decades. Isolation, structure elucidation and synthesis of a large number of new bioactive natural products at the present time is ample proof of the vigorous intellectual activities in the field of natural product chemistry. This issue of the journal contains the plenary and invited presentations at the 19th IUPAC Symposium on the Chemistry of Natural Products organized in Karachi, Pakistan, during January 16-20, 1994. It contains stimulating accounts of the recent investigations of the chemistry of many interesting natural products conducted by some of the leading scientists in the field. The articles include the total synthesis of a large number of complex natural molecules, isolation and structure elucidation of bioactive natural products from terrestrial, marine and microbial sources, biosynthesis of natural molecules, biological studies as well as recent developments in spectroscopic techniques for the structure elucidation of natural products. All in all, it constitutes a fascinating account of natural product chemistry as it stands today and it heralds a bright future in this existing area in the years to come.

ATTA-UR-RAHMAN



**L to R:** Nobel Laureates R.R. Ernst (Switzerland), D.H.R. Barton (USA) and Jean-Marie Lehn (France) seen with Atta-ur-Rahman (3rd from left)



**P. LeQuésne (USA) receiving the 'Shield of Appreciation' on behalf of US-NSF from D.H.R. Barton during the closing ceremony**