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PHOTOCHEMISTRY**

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Symposium Editor

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Preface

The XV IUPAC Symposium on Photochemistry was held under the chairmanship of Professor J. Michl (University of Colorado at Boulder, USA) in Prague, the charming capital of the Czech Republic, (17-22nd July 1994). As will be seen from the papers relating to the lectures presented, a wide range of topics spanning the very physical through to the biological aspects of photochemistry was covered. The symposium offered opportunities for learning and debate and must serve to enrich our knowledge of this fascinating subject. Hot debate, with plenty of cut and thrust was encountered in the Poster Session (just over 450 posters) which accompanied the lecture sessions.

The Symposium was concluded, in what has now become a time honoured way, namely the award of the Porter Medal followed by the delivery Porter Award lecture. The recipient in Prague was Professor Nicholas J. Turro of the Chemistry Department Columbia University, New York, USA. The contents of the lecture are reported in this issue of *Pure & Applied Chemistry* and the reader will I am sure support the decision by the Presidents of the European Photochemical Association, the Inter American Photochemical Society and the Japanese Photochemical Association to award the medal to Professor Turro since he has undoubtedly met the conditions of the award. Readers may be interested to know something of the origins of the award. In 1986 a meeting entitled *Flash Photolysis and its Applications* was held in honour of the then Sir George Porter, now Lord Porter, at the Royal Institution, London. Former students, co-workers and close colleagues of Lord Porter thought it fitting to strike a medal to mark the enormous contribution that Lord Porter had made to photochemistry and to call it the Porter Medal, and for it to be awarded biennially to the person who has made the most important recent contribution to photochemistry. In 1988 the first medal was awarded to Lord Porter, in 1990 to Professor Michael Kasha and this year to Professor Turro.

Finally as editor, I should like to thank all the authors who have so kindly provided the manuscripts for this volume and so enable us to convey some of the excitement, and developments that have recently taken place in photochemistry.

R.S. Davidson
Symposium Editor