

## EDITORIAL

### **'Organic Chemistry: Its Language and Its State of the Art'**

A Commemorative Symposium on the Centennial Anniversary of the 'Geneva Conference', the First International Conference on Organic Chemical Nomenclature

22–24 April, 1992, Geneva

April 1992 marks the 100th anniversary of a highly significant and influential conference that was held in Geneva: The '*Congrès International de Genève pour la Réforme de la Nomenclature Chimique*'. Born out of acknowledgment across national boundaries that parochial chemical nomenclature ill-served the needs of the chemical community for unambiguous communications, that first international meeting laid the foundations for systematic organic chemical nomenclature and, thus, for registering and retrieval of chemical information in this field.

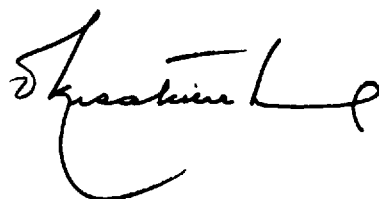
The 1892 Conference is generally referred to by organic chemists as the '*Geneva Conference*', and its set of rules, which continued to be the basis for all later revisions and extensions in nomenclature, is called '*Geneva Nomenclature*'.

In acknowledgment of the importance of the '*Geneva Conference*' and to examine both the history and the current state of

the art of organic chemistry, the *Swiss Chemical Society*, the *Association of Swiss Chemists* as well as the *American Chemical Society, Division of History of Chemistry*, jointly organized the centennial meeting under *IUPAC* sponsorship.

The '*Geneva Conference*' included as participants the most eminent European chemists of the period (*Friedel, E. Fischer, von Baeyer, Canizzaro, Paternò, Hantzsch, ...*), more so than subsequent nomenclature meetings. The program of the centennial meeting focuses on the interconnection among chemical research and communications of it, and attempts again to associate the names of eminent chemists with the concerns for current nomenclature practice.

Our celebratory meeting offers also an excellent opportunity to highlight the vitality and creativity of modern chemical research and to feature Geneva and its connection to both industrial and academic chemistry.



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Chairman