

Welcome to the XIIIth International Symposium on Medicinal Chemistry!

EDITORIAL

As representatives of the young *Medicinal Chemistry Section* of the *Swiss Chemical Society* (founded 1989), we are particularly proud and grateful that the *European Federation for Medicinal Chemistry* (EFMC) did not hesitate to entrust us with the organization of one of their renowned International Symposia.

For the first time, here in Europe, this Meeting is a joint event with the *Division of Medicinal Chemistry of the American Chemical Society* (USMC). Furthermore, the relatively high number of participants from Japan and other countries outside Europe gives the Symposium, which of course is sponsored by the *International Union for Pure and Applied Chemistry* (IUPAC), an almost global character.

On behalf of the Organizing and Scientific Committees, we are very happy to welcome all participants and in particular those from non-European countries to the *XIIIth EFMC International Symposium on Medicinal Chemistry* in Basel!

The organizers would like to acknowledge the generous support given by pharmaceutical companies in Switzerland as well those in many other countries. Considering the very positive attitude in all parts of the world towards this type of symposium and towards medicinal chemistry generally, we can look forward to a bright future for our science.

Our Scientific Committee has put together a programme of 41 lectures, and has selected 54 oral communications from nearly 400 poster-abstracts submitted. It has chosen to organize the programme according to mechanistic criteria rather than the currently more popular subdivision into therapeutic indications. The latter is used in industry, where most of the research in medicinal chemistry is performed, in making up the research teams. We intend to highlight the similarities of some approaches in different therapeutic areas and thus stimulate the process of information exchange between the scientists involved. This is the main goal of the Symposium.

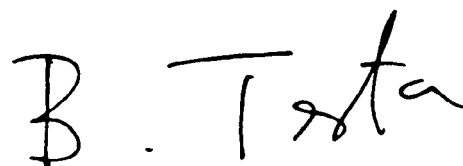
Of the twelve themes, or sections of the programme, two are dealt with by representatives of USMC, those on 'Ion channel modulators' and 'Drugs acting on nucleic acids and nucleic acids processing enzymes'. Two further sections take up new topics from industry and academia. One section is devoted to 'Drugs acting on CNS receptors', another to 'Proteases and their inhibitors', the latter touching on different therapeutic areas. The section on 'Selected enzyme inhibitors' will deal with monoamine oxidase, aromatase and protein kinase C inhibitors. 'The immune system as a drug target' is the

subject of a further section. The discovery of NCEs (new chemical entities) of potential therapeutic value is the mainstay of Medicinal Chemistry. Therefore, we have the section on 'Approaches in lead finding', with main lectures on crystallography, molecular modelling, and drug design, but also on the search for lead compounds of natural origin and on new techniques in random screening. A special section is devoted to the theme 'Peptidomimetics acting on peptide receptors'. Lead optimization is the subject of the sections 'Prodrugs and targeted drug delivery' and 'Molecular toxicology'.

The increasing complexity of the environment in which drug research is performed today challenges every medicinal chemist to expand his knowledge and skill in order to meet the requirements of his creative and demanding task. It also calls for intensive communication and collaboration with his fellows in other disciplines. We hope that our symposium will help to show us where we stand, give us stimulating input, demonstrate the vitality of our science, and increase our confidence in its future.



Dr. Emilio Kyburz



Prof. Bernard Testa