

## Preface

EUCMOS XXIV, the 24th European Congress on Molecular Spectroscopy, was held during 23–28 August 1998, in the Czech Technical University, Prague, Czech Republic. The meeting, held under the auspices of the Mayor of Prague, was organised by the Ioannes Marcus Marci Spectroscopic Society and the Institute of Chemical Technology in cooperation with the Czech Technical University and Charles University, as one of the events celebrating the 650th anniversary of the foundation of the Charles University in Prague.

The opening lecture by Professor R.F. Curl (Houston, TX, USA) on “Spectroscopy and the Needs of the 21st Century” was followed by 18 plenary lectures, 45 oral presentations and more than 300 posters surveying current research in molecular spectroscopy. There were some 350 participants from 35 countries, including around 200 scientists from eastern Europe. There was also a good representation of scientists from outside Europe, reflecting the truly international nature of this series of conferences.

The scientific work presented during the meeting ranged over the following broad topics:

1. Method oriented studies, theoretical studies:
  - vibrational spectroscopy
  - electronic spectroscopy; luminescence
  - NMR and ESR spectroscopies
  - mass spectrometry
  - laser spectroscopies
  - rotation and rotation–vibration spectroscopy; hyperfine effects
2. Specific effects:
  - CD spectroscopy; optical activity
  - surface-enhanced spectroscopy
  - spectra of isolated species; single molecules
  - cluster spectroscopy; order/phase effects
  - solvent effects

3. Important groups of compounds:

- polymers/superconductors
- clays and zeolites
- clusters and supramolecular compounds
- porphyrins, proteins, nucleic acids, biomolecules

4. Specific applications:

- biospectroscopy
- environmental problems; remote sensing; sensors
- forensic problems
- spectroscopy in pharmacology and medicine

5. Computational methods of molecular spectroscopy:

- modelling of spectra
- quantum chemistry; molecular dynamics and spectroscopy
- molecular structure studies
- combinatorial chemistry and spectroscopy
- chemometrics in spectroscopy
- useful spectroscopic software

The articles were of a very high standard and, as usual, the participants were able to interact widely through personal and group discussion. The editors would like to thank all the authors who have contributed to these proceedings.

The XXVth EUCMOS will be held in Coimbra, Portugal, during 27 August–1 September 2000.

Details from:  
Professor Rui Fausto  
Department of Chemistry  
University of Coimbra  
P-3049 Coimbra  
Portugal

Austin J. Barnes,  
Karel Volka