



Preface

This special issue gathers together selected scientific contributions presented at the XXIVth International Congress of Theoretical Chemists of Latin Expression, held in Puebla de los Angeles, Mexico, 20–25 September 1998.

The first two congresses were held simultaneously in Modena, Italy, and in Madrid, Spain, in 1969. Since then, annual meetings have regularly been held, with Argentina, Belgium, Chile, France, Italy, Mexico, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland and Venezuela all hosting various editions.

There is no official permanent organizing committee, only a promoting commission formed by some previous meeting organizers. Any group of scientists in a Latin-speaking country wishing to organize a meeting is eligible to be chosen as an organizer by this commission. The only stipulation is that the official languages are the Romance Languages. The proceedings, however, are published in English for practical reasons.

In 1998, the congress was held for the second time in Morelia, Mexico, a picturesque, colonial city close to the center of the country. In this XXIVth Congress, about 120 scientists from Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Cuba, France, Italy, Mexico, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Spain, Uruguay, USA and Venezuela participated.

During the congress, 11 plenary, seven special, and 15 invited lectures were given, the majority by the distinguished members of the scientific community from Latin-speaking countries. Furthermore, 120 posters were presented by younger experts in six different specialities of theoretical chemistry.

This special issue comprises selected and refereed contributions presented at the Puebla Congress as plenary lectures, special conferences, oral communications or posters. We wish to express our warm thanks to all the participants who contributed to the success of this meeting through their valuable contributions.

The organizing committee, Professor Lourdes Sandoval and Dr. F.J. Meléndez-Bustamante, are also warmly thanked. Furthermore, we gratefully acknowledge the Benemerita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla, the Institute of Physics of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma Metropolitana de Iztapalapa, and the Institute of Astrophysics Optics and Electronics for their financial and logistical support.

Finally, Miss Alicia Fernández-Clavero, the referees panel and the staff members of the Theoretical Chemistry Group at the Instituto de Estructura de la Materia of the CSIC, Madrid, are also warmly thanked for their help in editing this special issue of Theochem.

The XXVth meeting was held in Naples, Italy, organized by Professor Vincenzo Barone of the University Federico II, Naples, Italy, 13–17 September, 1999.

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