
Foreword

This issue of *Acta Biochimica Polonica* contains articles, mostly in an extended version, that were presented at the International Review Conference on Biotechnology held in Vienna, Austria, November 14–18, 2004. The Conference was organized by the Scientific Centre of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Vienna, the Committee of Biotechnology of the Polish Academy of Sciences, the Department of Biotechnology of the Jagiellonian University in Kraków, the Austrian Society for Biotechnology, the Austrian Society for Systems Biology, and the University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences in Vienna. The conference was partially sponsored by Life Sciences Austria Vienna Region (see next page). Its venue was the Scientific Centre of the Polish Academy of Sciences (www.viennapan.org).

The Organizing Committee of the Conference included Marian A. Herman (chairman) and Andrzej Nadolny (secretary). The scientific Program Committee was as follows: Karl Bayer (University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Vienna) – *co-chairman*; Stanisław Bielecki (Technical University, Łódź); Adam Dubin (Jagiellonian University, Kraków) – *co-chairman*; Reingard Grabherr (University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Vienna); Alicja Józkowicz (Jagiellonian University, Kraków) – *secretary*; Anna Podhajska (Centre of Technology Transfer, Gdańsk); Helmut Schwab (Technical University, Graz).

The Conference was devoted to various fields of biotechnology, with particular emphasis on stimulation of the international co-operation between Poland, Austria and other Central European countries. About 80 participants from Austria, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland and also one from Pakistan participated in the scientific sessions. More than half of the 49 presented papers are published in this issue of *Acta Biochimica Polonica*. They represent mainly agro-biotechnology, pharmaceutical biotechnology, and genetic engineering.

Editors

In recent years the Vienna region has developed into an hub at the heart of Europe: With the EU's enlargement on May 1, 2004, Vienna lies in the centre of the new Europe and offers optimum links to the new growth markets in Central and Eastern Europe. More than 300 international corporations have set up their Eastern European headquarters in Vienna. Major international organisations, such as the UN, UNIDO, IAEA and OPEC, are based in this city and, finally, Vienna is one of the most popular conference cities world-wide.

The International Biotechnology Review Conference in November 2004, organised by the Polish Academy of Science and financially supported by Life Science Austria Vienna Region, provided the opportunity to get in touch with the Polish Life Science Scene. The conference offered a wonderful possibility to start new co-operations and to cultivate existing contacts.

Let us together take the advantage of the opportunities offered by a united Europe!

Sonja Hammerschmid, PhD

Edeltraud Stiftinger, MA

Executive Board, LISA Vienna Region

