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## Preface

This Special Issue of *Polyhedron* contains thirteen of the papers presented at SIMEC-02, the 13th Spanish–Italian Congress on the Thermodynamics of Metal Complexes and 29th Annual Congress of Gruppo di Termodinamica dei Complessi, a joint meeting held from June 2nd to June 6th 2002 at Santiago de Compostela. It is dedicated to Prof. Helmut Sigel on the occasion of his 65th birthday.

As guest editors, we thank *Polyhedron* for making its pages available to us for the publication of these papers all together in continuance of the practice of previous SIMEC congresses [see *Polyhedron* 18 (1999) 3201; 19 (2000) 2387; and 21 (2002) 1311]. We hope its readers will enjoy this collection of studies on the thermodynamics of complex formation and intermolecular interactions in coordination chemistry. [Papers on analytical aspects of metal complexes that were presented at SIMEC-02 will appear shortly in ‘Analytical and Bioanalytical Chemistry’].

We are pleased to be able to place on record the success of SIMEC-02 as a forum for the discussion of all aspects of solution chemistry, including solution equilibria, molecular structure and thermodynamic properties, supramolecular equilibria, molecular recognition, interligand interactions, experimental methods in equilibrium analysis, calorimetry, computer data processing and molecular dynamics, non-aqueous solvents, phase equilibrium, and analytical, environmental, biological and biomedical applications. It was attended by 112 researchers from a number of countries (not only Spain and Italy), and it was very gratifying that thirty-five of these scientists were Ph.D. students or young postdoctoral researchers. The congress comprised six plenary lectures, each lasting 50 min and followed by 10 min for discussion; twenty-six 15-min oral presentations, each followed by 5-min discussion; and 57 posters presented in two sessions. Abstracts of all the communications presented may be found at <http://www.usc.es/simec02>.

The opening lecture, entitled ‘Chemical equilibria in biological systems’, was delivered by Prof. Antonio Sabatini of the University of Florence, and the closing lecture, ‘Micro acidity constants of purine nucleotide residues and acidifying properties of platinum(II)’, by Prof. Helmut Sigel of the University of Basle. The other plenary lectures concerned fluorescent macrocyclic polyamines as chemosensors, molecular machines and catalysts (given by Prof. Antonio Bianchi of the University of Florence), supramolecular interactions in extended metal complexes with multidentate ligands (given by Prof. Christoph Janiak of the University of Freiburg), double intramolecular interligand  $\pi$ – $\pi$  interactions in dinuclear copper(II) complexes (given by Prof. Juan Niclós of the University of Granada), and ligational properties of some aza ligands containing phenolic moieties in their molecular framework (given by Prof. Mauro Micheloni of the University of Urbino). The papers included in this Special Issue concern to solutions equilibria, kinetics, supramolecular interactions, mixed-ligand complexes, structure and mathematical models.

We take this opportunity of thanking all those who took part in SIMEC-02 or its organization and contributed to its success. Special thanks go to the lecturers; to the Organizing Committee (Profs. Juan Antelo, Elena Bermejo, Soledad García-Tasende and Agustín Sánchez of the University of Santiago de Compostela and Prof. Rosa Carballo of the University of Vigo); to the Scientific Committee (Profs. Antonio Bianchi and Antonio Vacca of the University of Florence, Antonio Braibanti of the University of Parma, Diego Ferri of the University of Naples, Enrique García-España of the University of Valencia, Christoph Janiak of the University of Freiburg, Alfredo Mederos of the University of La Laguna, Mauro Micheloni of the University of Urbino, Juan Niclós of the University of Granada, Victoria Salvadó of the University of Gerona, Helmut Sigel of the University of Basle, and Manuel Valiente of the Autonomous University of Barcelona); and last but not least to our hard-working Ph.D. students and postdoctoral researchers Mamen Aguirre, Susana Balboa, Isabel García-Santos, Lourdes Rodríguez-López and Raúl Rodríguez-Ríos, to whose enthusiastic assistance much of the success of the congress is due.

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2

Editorial

90 Finally, we remind readers that the 30th *Annual*  
91 *Congress of Gruppo di Termodinamica dei Complessi*  
92 *and 14th Italian–Spanish Congress on the Thermody-*  
93 *namics of Metal Complexes* (GTC-Ismec'03) is being  
94 organized by Prof. Diego Ferri of the University of  
95 Naples and will be held in Capri from June 7th to June  
96 11th 2003. We encourage all researchers interested in the  
97 multiple aspects of the thermodynamics of metal com-  
98 plexes to attend this and future meetings in this series,

where they are assured of a warm welcome and  
invigorating scientific discussions.

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108

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