

# Introduction

The International Conference on Photochemistry and Photobiology (ICPAP) was held at the University of Alexandria Research Center (UNARC), Egypt on January 5–10, 1983. More than one hundred papers were presented by participants from fourteen nations. The topics of the conference varied, but focus was on the state-of-the-art in the fields of lasers, photochemistry and photobiology. The papers relating to laser chemistry applications are contained in this special issue of *Laser Chemistry*.

There were perhaps two unique features of this conference. First, it drew together a very impressive number of prominent scientists from different areas of lasers, photochemistry and photobiology. Thus interdisciplinary information from chemistry/physics/biology could be exchanged, yet focus on the major issues of the conference was still there. It was indeed gratifying to see the cross fertilization between fields as reflected in the almost complete attendance at all sessions. Second, several important papers were given as overviews which allowed these contributors to present the “latest word” on theories or experiments in their fields. Examples include overviews of non-linear optics and laser spectroscopy, photochemical energy storage, the picosecond-femtosecond developments, supersonic beams, energy redistribution in molecules, synchrotron radiation, and magnetic and optical interactions in biological systems. The crosslinking between these different aspects of lasers, photochemistry and photobiology and the gathering of outstanding scientists from all over the world ensured the success of the conference.

The keynote addresses were given by the two Nobel Laureates, George Porter, and Nicolaas Bloembergen.

The organization of this conference, conducted in the United States and Egypt, took more than a year, and a great many people helped. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who assisted in this difficult, but rewarding endeavor. In particular, I wish to

sincerely thank my secretary, Mrs. Tina Wood, my colleagues at Caltech and members of the local organizing committee in Egypt. Special thanks go to Mostafa El-Sayed, Rudy Marcus, Robin M. Hochstrasser, Vincent McKoy, Jean-Claude Lehmann, Jacques Jousot-Dubien, Hans C. Wolf and Ed Schlag. Last, but certainly not least, I am grateful to Professor Dr. M. El-Hadary, President of the University of Alexandria, Professor Dr. A. R. El-Sadr, Director of UNARC, and Professor S. Morsi, Chairman of the local organizing committee; without their enthusiastic support we would not have had the ICPAP.

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