Editorial

In 1986, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences honoured Professor Dudley R. Herschback, Professor Yuan T. Lee and Professor John C. Polanyi for their contribution to the understanding of chemical elementary processes and to the development of reaction dynamics.

The 1986 Nobel Prize Laureates have participated from the start in the development of this new field of research in chemistry in which lasers play an ever increasing role. The Editors of *Laser Chemistry* offer their congratulations to the three Laureates, and are pleased to present here a brief review of the most exciting and fundamental parts of their activities. Professor Jean Durup, who is personally involved in this field of research, has kindly agreed to write the following distinguished article.

R. VETTER
Coordinating Editor