The National Institute of Chemistry, Slovenia

Slovenia flashed across American radar screens briefly this year in connection with its bid to join NATO, but most Americans know little about the country. It may therefore come as a surprise that almost every paper in this issue of the *Journal of Chemical Information and Computer Sciences* is from Slovenia, with most of them from its National Institute of Chemistry (NIC).

Although with a population of only 2 million, Slovenia is a small country, yet her scientists are very well trained and are competent and prolific in areas of interest to *JCICS*. This issue contains numerous papers from the NIC in Ljubljana (formerly the Boris Kidrič Institute) augmented by contributions from the Rugjer Boškovič Institute in Zagreb, Croatia and groups in different countries who are collaborating with NIC's molecular modeling group.

In 1957, Ljubljana was the site of an International Symposium on Hydrogen Bonding, organized by Dušan Hadži. This Symposium, still cited frequently in the molecular modeling literature, was a seminal event, paving the way for many of the recent advances in molecular modeling. In the 1960s at the NIC, much work was being done in quantum mechanics by the late Andrej Ažman, and in the 1970s Jure Zupan was beginning a significant effort in chemometrics. Chemometrics was the subject of the Second ICCCRE Conference in Ljubljana in 1973, and this Conference highlighted an online connection between Slovenia and the U.S. which enabled access to the NIH-EPA Mass spectral database—the first international online search in that part of the world.

Chemical topology has emerged as a minor but fruitful interest at the NIC; it was pioneered by Marko Razinger, who collaborated with the Institute of Mathematics, Physics and Mechanics on Ljubljana, with Morton Munk in Arizona and with the Zagreb group. His untimely death in 1996 was a heavy blow to the entire NIC. Experimental spectroscopy at the NIC has been extended from IR to NMR which, with strong computational support, has become a major research area. Computational chemistry is now widely used not only at the NIC but also at the University of Ljubljana and also the country's largest extramural institute, the Jožef Stefan Institute.

Our guest editor for this issue of *JCICS* is Dušanka Janežič, a mathematician at the NIC, who has spent many working visits in the U.S., particularly at the National Institutes of Health, where she most recently worked in 1995 as a Senior Fulbright Scholar. An expert in molecular modeling, especially in the math underlying it, she is formidably well qualified to manage the assembly of the 19 papers, including 10 papers from Slovenia, that comprise this issue of JCICS.

Bill Milne
Editor, JCICS

CI9704874