

The Eighteenth International Course & Conference on the Interfaces among Mathematics, Chemistry & Computer Sciences June 23–28, 2003 Dubrovnik, Croatia

The MATH/COMP/CHEM (MCC) meetings, held every year from 1986 in Dubrovnik, Croatia, attract many of Europe's leading computational and mathematical chemists, particularly those from Germany, Poland, France, Hungary, Romania, UK, Austria, Slovenia, and Croatia, where there is a rich tradition of mathematical chemistry. For a number of years, the *Journal of Chemical Information and Computer Sciences* has been a great medium in which to publish many of the papers presented at the Dubrovnik meetings, and in this issue the tradition continues.

The MCC'03 Course & Conference covered recent developments in mathematical and computational chemistry and physics with due respect to applications in materials sciences, drug and vaccine design, genetics and proteins studies, etc. The conference program of this year's MCC'03 included invited lectures, contributed oral presentations, and posters. Additionally, courses covered the introductory lectures to the topics presented at the conference.

Three special sessions were held during the first 3 days of the MCC'03. The first one on *Chemoinformatics* covered topics such as chemical descriptors, similarity, diversity, fingerprints, data storage, registration, compound selection, integration of measured and calculated molecular properties, data mining, in silico screening, statistical tools, etc. The session on *Drug Discovery* covered subjects such as QSAR, SAR, QSPR, 3D-methods, in vitro screening, ADME-TOX, high throughput screening and combinatorial chemistry, and new paradigms in the drug discovery processes. The session on *Bioinformatics* presented recent developments in the field of proteomics, comparative sequence analysis, structure and function prediction, and related fields of computational biology and biophysics.

In this issue of JCICS, 20 papers appear that were presented at Dubrovnik and subsequently submitted to and refereed by reviewers for this journal. They are broadly representative of the research that is currently in progress in the area of the MCC topics.

We dedicate these 20 papers to Dr. George W. A. Milne, for his long and dedicated service as the Editor-in-Chief of JCICS. He had the vision to create the present JCICS as a unique international journal, and he succeeded admirably.

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