



Preface

The present special issue of the journal *Bulgarian Chemical Communications* contains selected papers from the presentations delivered at the 7th Bulgarian Peptide Symposium.

The 1st meeting of “Structure and function of peptides, proteins and enzymes“ was held in 1986 in Sofia and ten years later the Bulgarian Peptide Society was established during the 1st Bulgarian Peptide Symposium in Rila mountain with founders Prof. Ch. Ivanov, Prof. B. Aleksiev, Prof. D. Petkov, Prof. L. Vezekov and Prof. L. Kasakov. Till now Bulgarian Peptide Symposium is a regular scientific conference, taking place every two years.

The 7th Bulgarian Peptide Symposium was held from 10th to 12th June 2016 in the Educational centre of South-West University – “Bachinovo”, near Blagoevgrad. The Symposium was proceeded under the auspices of the European Peptide Society (EPS). More than 70 active scientists from peptides/proteins chemistry, biologists, biochemists, biophysicists, as well as medical doctors and pharmacists participated by 13 oral and 60 poster presentations. The scientific program was divided into sections on different topics: amino acids and peptides synthesis, peptide mimetics, biologically active peptides, analytical methods in peptide chemistry, structure and conformation analysis. The main objection of such a selection was the consolidation of fundamental research with attempts to its application at the understanding of the molecular mechanism of pathogenic processes, diagnosis of diseases characteristic for modern civilization and introduction into practice of a new generation of drugs that are based on the most biocompatible active substances, undoubtedly peptides and proteins.

During the symposium there were invited lectures: Prof. Andreas Tzakos - University of Ioannina, Greece, Prof. Dirk Tourwe - Free University Brussels, Belgium, Prof. Krzysztof Rolka - University of Gdansk, Poland. It worths to underline the active participation of young scientists at 7th Bulgarian Peptide Symposium, both with oral presentations, as well as with posters. The Scientific Committee evaluated 40 posters presented by young participants. The winners of the competition for the best posters were: Petya. Hadzhibozheva - Trakia University, Department of Physiology, Stara Zagora and Dessislava Marinkova, University of Chemical Technology and Metallurgy, Sofia.



The financial support from the European Peptide Society, Bulgarian Peptide Society, and several private companies as FOT OOD, Sigma-Aldrich, Corning, Chromservis OOD, Bio Compounds, Waters, Globaltest, made it possible to invite several distinguished scientists and to cover the participation of more than 10 young scientists and students.

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