



Preface

Dear reader,

In this issue of Bulgarian Chemical Communications, some studies, presented at the Fifth National Crystallographic Symposium with international participation **NCS'14**, are collected. This most important event, which took place from 25th to 27th September, 2014 at the University of Chemical Technology and Metallurgy – Sofia was organized under the auspices of the Bulgarian Crystallographic Society and was dedicated to the officially proclaimed by the General Assembly of the United Nations International Year of Crystallography. The year 2014 marked the centennial of the birth of modern crystallography and we hope to have used this opportunity to stimulate and ignite an interest in crystallography amongst students, scientists and the general public.

Following the tradition, established during the previous symposia of the Bulgarian Crystallographic Society, the organizers have invited leading researchers from abroad and from Bulgaria. The invited speakers were: Prof. Dr. J. Manuel Perez-Mato (University of Basque Country, Bilbao, Spain), Prof. Dr. Ulrich Bismayer (University of Hamburg, Germany), Prof. Dr. Georgi Kirov (Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, Bulgaria), Prof. Dr. Ross Angel (University of Padova, Italy), Prof. Dr. Maria Lalia-Kantouri (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece), Dr. Tonya Vitova (Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Germany), Dr. Jörg Rothe (Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Germany), Dr. Emre S. Tasci, (Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey), Dr. Biliانا Gasharova (Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Germany), Dr. Krassimir Grabev (Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Germany), Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rossitza Pentcheva (University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany). Their participation made **NCS'14** attractive and useful for a wide range of participants from the scientific community, giving them the chance to become acquainted with the

current research achievements in the field of crystallography, presented in an impressive and interesting way. The invited speakers, showed the audience directions and trends in the development of modern science.

One of the sessions of the Fifth National Crystallographic Symposium, was dedicated to Prof. Georgi Kirov from Sofia University “St. Kl. Ohridski”. He was the first scientist awarded an honorary sign by the Bulgarian Crystallographic Society for his overall activity and his outstanding contribution to the development of crystallography in Bulgaria.

As expected in the International Year of Crystallography and to the delight of the organizers, this edition of the symposium **NCS'14** was marked by the largest number of participants compared to the previous ones. Bulgarian scientists from eight universities, eleven institutes of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and scientists from universities and institutes from Germany, Italy, Spain, Turkey, Greece, the Republic of Macedonia, USA and Egypt submitted 27 oral and 90 poster presentations, which involved more than 300 authors. It is our sincere hope that the participation of various representatives of the domestic and foreign scientific institutions as well as the presentation of extremely versatile topics led to fruitful work, interesting and useful encounters for the participants in this scientific forum and thus, the objectives intended during the **NCS'14** were achieved. An important incentive for the **NCS'14** participants was the opportunity to publish in this journal.

Established practice of the organizers of the National Crystallographic Symposia is to encourage and support the scientific progress of young researchers. There were some new and good ideas in this regard last year. It is also a great achievement that over 30% of the participants in **NCS'14** were students, PhD students and young scientists who actively participated in the poster sessions.

Eleven scientific sessions (including two poster sessions) which were conducted within three days were field for lively discussions and exchange of ideas and we expect them to be useful for the future work of the participants. An award for the Best Poster Contribution by young scientist was announced, which was given by the international jury to the students from the University of Chemical Technology and Metallurgy – Sofia: A. Petrova, S. M. Angelova and I. A. Nikolchina.

Between 2009 and 2014, successively the Ist, IInd, IIIrd, IVth and Vth National Crystallographic Symposia (NCS) were successfully held in Sofia. During the years this scientific forum has become an attractive initiative for a wide range of scien-

tists to meet and exchange ideas. We are pleased to announce on the pages of Bulgarian Chemical Communications, that International School on Introduction in the Rietveld Structure Refinement, will be held in Sofia between September, 28th and October, 3rd 2015 as well as the Sixth National Crystallographic Symposium, **NCS'16** to be conducted in 2016. These events, organized by the Bulgarian Crystallographic Society and the studies presented in this issue of Bulgarian Chemical Communications will hopefully provoke a growing interest in crystallography in the Bulgarian scientific community and will show the opportunities it offers to researchers from diverse scientific areas.

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