

Editorial

## Bioelectrochemistry

This special issue of *Bioelectrochemistry* is one of two special issues of *Bioelectrochemistry* and *Electrochimica Acta* devoted to the **BIOELECTROCHEMISTRY-2005** an International Conference that was held in Coimbra, Portugal, on June 19th–24th, 2005, as a Joint Meeting of two International Societies:

**XVIII International Symposium on Bioelectrochemistry and Bioenergetics** of the Bioelectrochemical Society (BES), that followed the aims of previous conferences in the series, which have taken place approximately every two years since the first conference on bioelectrochemistry in Rome, in 1971, and **3rd Spring Meeting: Bioelectrochemistry** of the International Society of Electrochemistry (ISE), that followed the two previous thematic ISE Spring Meetings which began in Alicante, in 2003.

Bioelectrochemistry includes a broad variety of scholarly approaches leading to a better understanding of all living things at the macroscopic, microscopic/single-cell and nanoscopic/molecular level, leading to beneficial applications in medicine, agriculture, industry, and ecology.

The Conference featured all aspects of the highly interdisciplinary area of bioelectrochemistry and bioenergetics, with contributions from the disciplines of biophysics, biotechnology and medical biophysics, and brought together scientists working at the frontiers of bioelectrochemistry and electrophysiological research.

These objectives were achieved with the participation of 350 scientists from 36 countries all over the World. Indeed, there were contributions from Europe, Africa, America, Asia and Australasia, and it is hoped that this will foment fruitful exchanges of ideas and open up new perspectives for future advances. The Conference was

a great success as it managed to reunite scientists working in bioelectrochemistry as well as in neighbouring areas of scientific research.

The themes were presented in 5 plenary lectures, 10 invited lectures and the Giulio Milazzo Prize Lecture, 90 oral contributions, 62 posters with 3 min oral presentation, and 209 posters, during 5 days of scientific sessions in an intensive scientific programme. Each day, the programme opened with a Plenary Lecture in the main Auditorium. The oral contributions, distributed throughout the whole week, covered all the conference themes, showing the recent advances in developing areas and pointing to new research directions. The scientific programme was very intense, with two parallel sessions, and the poster sessions ended late in the evening. Vigorous discussions following the presentations were continued between the sessions, and some resulted in new international collaborations.

The present issues of *Bioelectrochemistry*, the BES official journal, and *Electrochimica Acta*, the ISE official journal, obviously contain only some of the contributions to the Conference. All manuscripts were subjected to the standard peer-reviewing procedure involving at least two referees. As Guest Editor I would like to thank the reviewers for their professional help as well as the contributors for submitting their manuscripts.

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