Introduction

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The papers collected in this number of Foundations of Chemistry fall into two groups. In one the discussion centers round the way philosophy of chemistry is related to issues and arguments in general philosophy. Jaap van Brakel's work has developed into an original general philosophical stance to which philosophy of chemistry contributes a certain dimension within the wider whole of philosophical reflections on culture. Olimpia Lombardi's study of the way Prigogine's collaboration with Isabel Stenger creates a kind of realism, an 'ontological plurality', that suggests a commonality with some the writings of Hilary Putnam. This is a theme in general philosophy emerging out of the philosophy of chemistry.

However, some issues in the philosophy of chemistry disclose an influence from general philosophy to our understanding of chemical concepts. Marina Banchetti-Robino brings a historical dimension with a welcome analysis of the work of Robert Boyle. Her paper moves from Boyle's chemical philosophy, a kind of mereology, to some of the philosophical issues in recent philosophy of chemistry. Joseph Earley takes us to the core of chemistry itself with a return to the concept of 'structure' as it appears in chemistry. Jean-Pierre Llored shows how the concept of emergence when linked with issues about the alleged reduction of chemical concepts to those of quantum theory threatens the integrity and independence of chemistry. Finally Eric Scerri takes us on another venture to the core of things with his study of ways of understanding and misunderstanding the nature of chemical classifications. Rien Vihalemm's conference paper 'What is a scientific concept: Some considerations concerning chemistry in practice realist philosophy of science' will appear in J.-P. Llored (ed.) *Philosophy of Chemistry: Practices, Methodology and Concepts*, //Newcastle-on-Tyne Cambridge Scholars.

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