Special issue “cyclodextrins: past, present, and future”

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Cyclodextrins, which are macrocyclic oligosaccharides composed of D-glucopyranose units, are well-known natural host compounds. The first reference to a substance which later provide to be a cyclodextrin was published by Villiers in 1891 and the first cyclodextrin inclusion complex was described in 1911. Cyclodextrin inclusion complexes can certainly be considered as the pioneers of supramolecules. Cyclodextrins are utilized in various scientific fields such as, host–guest chemistry, pharmaceutical science, medical science, biomolecular science, material science and engineering, and so on.

The 19th International Cyclodextrin Symposium (ICS 2018) has been held on April 27th–30th, 2018 at Sophia University in Tokyo Japan, with the aim to present the achievements in the field of cyclodextrin science and technology mentioned above and promote communications for the scientists all around the world. ICS is very unique symposium focusing only “cyclodextrins”. The first ICS was held in Budapest, Hungary in 1981 organized by Professor József Szejtli. The 2nd ICS was held in Tokyo, Japan in 1984. Also the 7th ICS (ICS 1994) and the 14th ICS (ICS 2008) were held in Tokyo and Kyoto, Japan. Thus the ICS 2018 was the forth time ICS held in Japan organized by Professors Keiko Takahashi and Takashi Hayashita. The program of the symposium consisted of 134 papers, including

2 plenary and 21 invatd lectures, and 27 general oral and 84 poster presentations. The number of participants viz 95 from 23 overseas countries and 197 domestic perticipants exceed our expectation.

This special issue of *Journal of Inclusion Phenomena and Macrocyclic Chemistry (JIPH)* contains ten original articles and one review article selected from some of the invited lectures, as well as oral and poster presentations at ICS 2018. The title of the special issue is “Cyclodextrins: past, present, and future”. We hope ICS2018 will be one of the milestones for further promotion of international research exchange in cyclodextrin science.

On behalf of the organizing committee, we would also like to thank all the presenters for their lectures and posters, as well as other participants for supporting the success of ICS 2018. We wish to thank the international scientific advisors for their encouragement, The Society of Cyclodextrin, Japan, Sophia University, The Nagai Foundation, and all other sponsors for their financial supports.

The next symposium, the 20th International Symposium, will be held in Sicily, Italy on 2020. Professor Antonino Mazzaglia will organize this meeting. We heartily hope to see you all again in Italy.

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