Supramolecular Structure and Function 8

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Edited by

Greta Pifat-Mrzljak

Ruder Bošković Institute

Zagreb, Croatia

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Preface

An enormous amount of new knowledge on the molecular basis of various biological phenomena has emerged in the rapidly expanding field of bioscience. Since the frontiers in scientific research are difficult to define, the creation of new knowledge depends not only on new methods and concepts but also on interaction with other fields of research. The principles and methods of biophysics should be a rational language for discussion not only between scientists of the different disciplines of natural sciences, such as physics, mathematics, biochemistry, molecular biology and biotechnology, but also for medicine and social sciences as well. This is the general philosophy behind the organization of the Summer Schools organized by Rudjer **Bošković** Institute, Zagreb, Croatia and the Croatian Biophysical Society.

The International Summer Schools on Biophysics have a very broad scope. This is in contrast to the other workshops or schools which are centred mainly on one topic or technique. The intention was to organize courses which provided advanced training at doctoral or postdoctoral level in biosciences. Therefore, the Schools essentially have a catalytic role and are complementary to, rather than competing with, activities of parallel national or international programmes.

Internationally recognized and successfully established these eight international summer schools have been organized under the title «Supramolecular Structure and Function». The Schools were devoted to the structure-function relationship of biological macromolecules and to mayor biophysical techniques. The Biophysics Schools provide a significant contribution to the capacity building of science in Europe. This is in line with UNESCO's declaration that, "it should be increased, support to regional and international programmes of higher education and to networking of graduate and postgraduate institutions". The organizers are deeply committed to the idea that science, scientific and educational collaborations help to create the European framework we all want to be a part of. These summer schools, as Master Classes of UNESCO, supported

by IUPAB and UNESCO, could be a part of the mosaic forming the European Research Area (ERA) and the European Higher Education Area (EHEA). The organizers of the International Summer School on Biophysics think, therefore, that the publication of this volume and its distribution within the scientific community will serve towards the objectives of expanding, sharing and providing easy access to scientific knowledge.

The publication of the volume is due to the substantial financial support provided by the UNESCO Venice Office - Regional Office for Science and Technology for Europe (UVO-ROSTE) as well as by the intellectual efforts of Prof. Greta Pifat-Mrzljak from the **Ruder Bošković** Institute - initiator of the series of the International Schools on Biophysics and Chairperson of the 8th School held in Rovinj in 2003.

Organizing Committee

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