

PREFACE

The biennial series of International Carbohydrate Symposia are organized by the International Carbohydrate Organization under the international auspices of IUPAC and IUB. These Symposia have the aim of giving the state of art of the scientific activities in this field as well as of the technological and industrial applications of carbohydrates. Since the Symposium in Sydney, Australia, in 1980, the biochemical and biomedical aspects have considerably grown in importance.

The programme of the XIIth International Carbohydrate Symposium in Utrecht, The Netherlands, reflects the impressive progress made in the recognition of carbohydrates as vital components of biological systems. In fact about 50% of the contributions to the XIIth International Carbohydrate Symposium are related to these aspects, on many occasions showing that an interdisciplinary approach may lead to significant results. In particular medical implications of the biological functions of carbohydrate chains are attracting attention. The gain of insight in these processes form a challenge for synthetic and (bio)technological studies.

The plenary lectures show the recent developments in all areas of carbohydrate research and illustrate that a rich future can be foreseen for carbohydrate chemistry and biochemistry.

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PREVIOUS INTERNATIONAL CARBOHYDRATE SYMPOSIA

Up to now the following International Symposia have been held:

| | | Location: | Chairman: |
|------|------|--------------------------|---------------|
| 1960 | I | Edinburgh/Gif-sur-Yvette | |
| 1962 | II | Birmingham | M. Stacey |
| 1964 | III | Münster | F. Micheel |
| 1967 | IV | Kingston | J.K.N. Jones |
| 1970 | V | Paris | J.E. Courtois |
| 1972 | VI | Madison | R.L. Whistler |
| 1974 | VII | Bratislava | S. Bauer |
| 1976 | VIII | Kyoto | K. Onodera |
| 1978 | IX | London | W.G. Overend |
| 1980 | X | Sydney | S.J. Angyal |
| 1982 | XI | Vancouver | G.G.S. Dutton |