Foreword

The present volume contains the texts of the plenary lectures presented at the 3rd International Conference on Bioinorganic Chemistry (ICBIC 3) to be held from July 6-10, 1987 in Noordwijkerhout, The Netherlands. Abstracts of the session lectures, the lectures to be given at the minisymposia and the contributions to the poster sessions are published separately in a special issue of the Recueil des Travaux Chimiques des Pays-Bas, official journal of the Royal Netherlands Chemical Society (Vol. 106, June/July issue). The present congress is the third in a series; the previous two meetings having been held in Florence (1983) and the Algarve in Portugal (1985).

Bioinorganic Chemistry is a relatively young discipline, that about ten years ago began to branch off from Inorganic Chemistry and Biochemistry. At present it is expanding at a fast rate in the areas of Biochemistry, Medical Sciences and Environmental Chemistry, to name but a few. The overwhelming interest in the conference and the tremendous variety of scientific contributions to the conference program attest to the flourishing state the field is in.

The five plenary lectures, presented here, epitomize in a sense a number of important research areas in Bioinorganic Chemistry. S.J. Lippard's contribution is a fine example of the contributions bioinorganic chemistry can make towards combatting disease and designing new diagnostic and therapeutic tools in medicine. H.A.O. Hill in his lecture stresses the great progress that has been made over the last 5 years in understanding bio-electrochemical processes. Much is held in store for us for the near future. The multivaried properties of cytochrome oxidase, one of the most important enzymes for the production of energy in eukaryotes, are discussed by G. Palmer. The enzyme represents a research challenge of long standing to which a host of research groups have devoted their attention in the past. Finally, the lectures by D. Mansuy and K.N. Raymond betray the strong interest coordination chemists and designers of synthetic model compounds have long sustained in natural systems as a source of inspiration for their research.

These lectures as well as the many other contributions at the conference demonstrate that Bioinorganic Chemistry has come of age and faces a prosperous and exciting future.

Gerard W. Canters