

Preface

The 9th International Conference on Heteroatom Chemistry (ICHAC-9) was held in the Auditorio Príncipe Felipe of Oviedo, Spain, from 30 June to 4 July 2009. The conference was chaired by Prof. José Barluenga (University of Oviedo, Spain) and attracted about 210 participants, mainly organic and inorganic chemists, from 30 countries all around the world. The scientific program consisted of 9 plenary lectures, 21 invited lectures, 48 short communications, and 68 posters.

This conference explored the state of the art of heteroatom chemistry and focused on the following major themes:

- heteroatom ligands in catalysis
- heteroatoms in organic (non-metal) catalysis
- heteroatoms in medicine
- heteroatom polymers and materials
- heteroatom bonding and synthesis

Besides the collection of 16 papers (based on plenary and invited lectures with the choice of oral contributions) included in this issue of *Pure and Applied Chemistry*, the ICHAC-9 Book of Abstracts remains available online and can be free downloaded from <<http://www.uniovi.es/ichac9/>> in pdf format.

ICHAC will return to its origins for its 10th meeting, and, therefore, ICHAC-10 will be held in Kyoto (Japan) in 2011 and will be hosted by Prof. Norihiro Tokitoh of Kyoto University. It is confidently expected that the conference will continue to fulfill its important scientific role in highlighting ongoing advances in heteroatom chemistry.

The organizers are grateful to all who contributed to a successful scientific program, especially to the speakers and to our public and private sponsors: Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación (Spain), Consejería de Educación y Ciencia del Principado de Asturias (by Plan de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación-PCTI Asturias), Ayuntamiento de Oviedo, Universidad de Oviedo, Fundación Universidad de Oviedo, Lilly, Bruker and Scharlab and the Organic Division of the Spanish Royal Society of Chemistry (Grupo Especializado en Química Orgánica de la RSEQ). Finally, in particular, we would like to thank all contributors to this issue for their timely efforts and the editorial staff for their help.

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Conference Editors