

Supramolecular Structure and Function 10

Jasminka Brnjas-Kraljević · Greta Pifat-Mrzljak
Editors

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 Springer

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Preface

In the fifties of the last century the definition of biophysics arose much dispute among the scientists who were traditional physicists, chemists and biologists by training. As an interdisciplinary science, biophysics shares significant overlap with biochemistry, bioengineering and systems biology, but on the other hand offers a rational language for discussion about a common subject to scientists of different scientific disciplines. Biophysics has gradually erased the frontiers in scientific research by bringing together scientists from different fields of research. Nowadays, it has been widely accepted that the search for new knowledge depends not only on new methods and concepts but also on the interaction within different fields of research. Promoting an interaction between different disciplines in natural sciences and enabling young scientists to be involved in it is the general philosophy behind the Biophysical Summer Schools organized by the Rudjer Bošković Institute, Zagreb, Croatia and the Croatian Biophysical Society every 3 years, since 1981.

The International Summer Schools on Biophysics have a broad scope devoted to the structure-function relationship of biological macromolecules and to major biophysical techniques. They are internationally recognized and successfully established under the title “Supramolecular Structure and Function” and are included into the curricula of doctoral studies at distinguished European universities. The intention has remained the same through all the ten Schools – to organize courses which provide advanced training at doctoral or postdoctoral level in biosciences. The Schools have gained reputation for running Discussion Clubs as extra curricular activities, where students would invite their peers to gather around lecturers and discuss various topics of specific interest. The enthusiasm of these discussions is always equally shared by students and lecturers. The contributions presented at the Summer School by prominent lecturers illustrate the principles, concepts and methods of biophysics coupled with molecular biology approaches. Given the considerable diversity of topics it covers, we believe that the book will be of interest to scientists involved in different disciplines, as it was to the audience at the Summer School.

The tenth Summer School, as Master Classes of UNESCO, was supported by UNESCO and could be considered as 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 hope 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 in the field of biophysics.

The support to the School by IUPAB and EBSA reflects the international and European interest to bring together scientists of different profiles from all over the world. The national financial supporters were the Ministry of Science, Education and Sport of the Republic of Croatia, the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, The Adris Foundation and The National Foundation for Science, Higher Education and Technological Development of the Republic of Croatia whose substantial support enabled the participation of young scientists from Croatia.

This volume will inform the broader scientific community on the profile of the Summer School and new biophysical achievements, but the most valuable outcome of the tenth School is the exchange of knowledge and friendships established between lecturers and participants in the pleasant atmosphere of the Crveni otok near Rovinj, Croatia.

Zagreb, Croatia

Greta Pifat-Mrzljak
Director of the Schools

The *spiritus movens* of all ten Schools during the period of 30 years was professor Greta Pifat-Mrzljak. Unfortunately, she passed away December 11, 2009. Till the last she was involved in organization and preparation of the School and this proceeding. The tradition, she established, was to present the School with book of selected lectures held on School by distinguished lectures. The intention was to acquaint the broader scientific communion with the hot subjects in biophysical research. The result of 30 years devotement is the serial of ten books "Supramolecular Structure and Function" as a nice history of biophysical research development and a great help in education of young scientist in that field. Detailed information about Schools and books can be found on web site of the School

<http://www.irb.hr/events/confpages/biophysics/>

For the outstanding record of accomplishments and leadership of the triennial international summer schools and textbooks on Supramolecular Structure and Function prof. Greta Pifat-Mrzljak was presented the 2010 Emily M. Gray Award by The Biophysical Society.

Zagreb, Croatia

Jasminka Brnjas-Kraljević
on behalf of Organizing Committee

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