

## ***6th Workshop on Applications of EPR in Biology and Medicine***

This collection of papers with the common denominator of EPR spectroscopy represents the variety of topics presented and discussed in Fall 2004 during the 6<sup>th</sup> Workshop on EPR Applications in Biology and Medicine. The EPR Workshops at the Jagiellonian University have now become a well-established tradition, and occupy an important position in the calendar of the scientific events organized in Kraków. The participants of the 6<sup>th</sup> EPR Workshop had the opportunity to attend lectures and the accompanying activities from October 5–10, 2004.

The 53 lectures were organized into eight sessions, which covered the most important biomedical research fields utilizing EPR spectroscopy and imaging, including the following: “Biophysical applications of EPR spin labeling,” “Advanced EPR methods and technologies,” “EPR studies of biomaterials,” “EPR imaging and clinical EPR,” “Free radicals in oxidative stress,” “Biophysics of NO,” “Free radicals as indicators of functional state of biological systems,” and “EPR in Photobiology.” The special and invited lectures and oral communications were accompanied by seven posters. The important contribution to the scientific output of the Workshop was, as usual, the invigorating and cordial discussions on the hot topics of EPR research, which add to the unique, truly scientific atmosphere of the Kraków EPR Workshops.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to the guests of honor and invited speakers, as well as to all the participants and distinguished guests who contributed to the success of the Workshop. With your support, we were able to organize the entire Workshop for the first time in the new 3<sup>rd</sup> University Campus in Kraków-Pychowice, and to enjoy the brand new conference facilities of the Complex of Natural Sciences and the Faculty of Biotechnology. Your presence in Kraków, not only during, but also between the Workshops, gave the Institute of Molecular Biology justification and courage to seek resources for the new facilities, and aided in its transformation to the Faculty of Biotechnology. Of the 85 participants, 9

85 participants, 9 of the most eminent speakers were invited to present their contribution as special lectures. In addition, there were 30 special speakers and 15 oral presentations. We were pleased to see that several students and young researchers who in the past had taken part in the Workshops only as onlookers were inspired by the meetings to present their own research as active participants of the Workshop, and as representatives not only of the host Department of Biophysics, but of several outstanding international EPR centers. This transfer of experience and knowledge between mentor and student is one of the most important aims of these Workshops, and we are very happy to state that this aim has been achieved.

We, as the Organizing Committee would also like to express our gratitude to the Institutions that provided financial support to the 6<sup>th</sup> EPR Workshop and enabled the edition of the post-workshop materials: the European Commission 5<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme (Project BIER, contract no ICA1-CT-2000-70012), The Polish State Committee for Scientific Research (KBN, SPUB-M 3018), the Polish Ministry of National Education and Sport, the Department of Biophysics and Faculty of Biotechnology of the Jagiellonian University, the Department of Biophysics of the Medical College of Wisconsin, Molecular Specialties Inc., the Polish Biophysical Society and the Medical Academy in Poznań, Poland.

The Workshop attracted participants from Poland, USA, Russia, Italy, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Slovenia, Australia, Switzerland, Israel, Japan and Turkey. This is the highest number of participants among all 6 of the EPR Workshops organized in Kraków so far. It prompts us to believe that the event has earned international and intercontinental prestige and popularity, but most importantly, it shows us that the field of EPR application in biomedical research has been expanding. This promises that next EPR Workshops in Krakow will also be very successful. We look forward to seeing you again in 2007!

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