

# Emerging Directions in Chemical Sciences

## PREFACE

This Special Issue of the *Proceedings of the Indian Academy of Sciences (Chemical Sciences)* is dedicated to Professor C N R Rao on the occasion of his 70th birthday. Chintamani Nagesa Ramachandra Rao was born on June 30, 1934 in Bangalore. After his early education in Bangalore and Banaras, he went to the USA for higher education and research in chemistry. On his return, he established world-class research schools in chemistry at Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur and Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore where he set the highest standards for academic pursuit. A more recent establishment is the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research at Bangalore, dedicated to frontiers of research, where he is now *Linus Pauling Professor for Life*.

Professor C N R Rao is a towering personality in Indian science in the post-Independence era. His immense contributions over five decades cover almost every facet of chemical science – synthesis, structure and dynamics. The scientific world has conferred upon him many coveted distinctions and honours – fellowships of the major academies and learned societies, and honorary doctorates from various universities. He has received many prestigious medals at home and abroad that include the Marlow Medal of the Faraday Society and the Einstein Gold Medal from UNESCO. In recognition of his valuable contribution to science and science education in the country, the national honour – Padma Vibhushan – was bestowed upon him by the President of India.

It is with a profound sense of respect and gratitude to Professor C N R Rao that we place this Festschrift before the scientific community. We are overwhelmed by the tremendous response to our invitation to contribute to the Festschrift – a testimony to the affection and esteem that the scientific community holds him in. The Festschrift contains articles covering almost all aspects of current research in chemical sciences, reflecting his own diverse interests. We join his innumerable students, colleagues, friends and admirers in wishing him many more years of enjoyable and scientifically active life.

November 2003

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Guest Editors