

Foreword

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Crystallography, spectroscopy and computation constitute the three pillars of structure as envisaged by chemists. Structure itself is in interplay with dynamics and synthesis to provide a full panorama of modern chemistry. Specifically, crystallography has made significant inroads into dynamics through time resolved techniques facilitated by the availability of intense light sources such as the synchrotron and the free electron laser. Crystallography also has much overlap with synthesis through the field of crystal engineering, which includes the large and varied group of compounds known as coordination polymers or metal organic frameworks. It is a dangerous over-simplification therefore for chemists to equate crystallography with the determination of crystal structures of organic, inorganic, metal organic and organometallic compounds for characterization and identification purposes.

The International Year of Crystallography (IYCr) was launched in January 2014 in a special ceremony in Paris,

organized by the International Union of Crystallography and UNESCO. The aims and objectives of IYCr are many and include increasing the outreach of crystallography to various other scientific communities such as the chemistry community. The intersection of crystallography and chemistry has always been a happy hunting ground for researchers. I am pleased to see a large number of interesting papers in this special issue of the proceeding of the NASI that has been brought out to commemorate IYCr. The volume has been very ably edited by Prof. V. Chandrasekhar and includes contributions from both established and evolving research groups in the country and elsewhere. It is a matter of satisfaction to me that NASI has chosen to identify the subject of crystallography that has too often been depicted as an unsung endeavour. I have no doubt that the appearance of this special volume will trigger a new interest among the chemistry community of India in this very important and fundamental subject.

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