

# Preface

On the 19th of September 2001 the first annual meeting organised by the Biophysical Chemistry Group of the Royal Society of Chemistry was held in London. Called Biophysical Chemistry 2001 the conference focussed on four areas: modelling of biological systems; membrane structures and interactions; methods for probing biomolecules and channels and receptors. The aim of the conference was to mix together scientists from the physical and life sciences who were bound only by their shared interest in understanding the molecular details of biological processes. The areas we chose as a focus for this sociological experiment were designed to have the maximum potential for cross-fertilisation of scientific thought.

Despite the tragic events that occurred in the week preceding the conference over 170 scientists from around the world were able to attend what was a lively and invigorating three days of scientific discussion. This book consists of a selection of the contributions that were made to the conference. The authors were asked to write articles, which although they would be subjected to refereeing were expected to be opinionated and that the authors' opinions would not be altered. The articles should be read in the same spirit. Indeed the opinions and views expressed during the conference and we hope replicated to some extent in these papers is in some part a reflection of the different ways in which our scientific training prepares us to view the world around us. We hope that this diversity in viewpoint will be evident from the collection of papers we present here and that you will find them as stimulating as we did.

*Richard Templer and Robin Leatherbarrow, Imperial College, London, May 2002*

