

PREFACE

Following the success of the first International Workshop on Recent Developments in Industrial Polysaccharides, the proceedings of which were published in this series, the second International Workshop was held at Stevens Institute of Technology, Hoboken, New Jersey on August 18-19, 1986. The Workshop was organized to provide a forum for the communication of recent results and the exchange of ideas among all participants on recent developments in industrial polysaccharides, and in particular on the impact of biotechnology and advanced methodologies. Today, biotechnology and advanced physico-chemical methodologies are being used to design and produce new, high added-value polysaccharides and to improve the understanding of polysaccharide structure-function relationships. In addition, an increased knowledge of the biological activity and properties of certain polysaccharides and polysaccharide derivatives has led to an explosion of interest in basic and applied research into the biomedical properties of polysaccharides such as vaccine and drug development and dietary fibre. The objective of the two-day workshop was to provide a platform for scientists and engineers from academia, government and industry to openly debate these major issues.

The workshop program was divided into four consecutive sessions, each session having four or five invited speakers. At the close of each session was a period (scheduled for 1 hour) for open debate which was led by a guest discussion leader. The format of the program may be found toward the end of this book. The workshop, chaired in its entirety by Professor Roy L. Whistler, was attended by scientists and engineers active in polysaccharide research from North America, Europe and Australia. The round-table discussions following each of the sessions were lively and informative, with contributions from many of the participants, and invariably lasted longer than the 1-hour program allocation. The success of this aspect of the workshop is evidenced by the fact that this volume contains, in addition to the written versions of the main lectures delivered by the invited speakers, written versions of short communications from many of the participants who spoke briefly during open discussion. These main lectures and short

communications have been arranged in this volume in the order they were delivered at the meeting.

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