

Preface

This book is dedicated to the memory of Mikhail Mikhailovich Shemyakin, pioneer of bioorganic chemistry in the USSR and one of the first on an international scale to realize its full impact on the other life sciences.

In his spectacular and all too short life, Shemyakin had been interested in many fields of organic chemistry, from structural theory and reaction mechanisms, to the multifaceted aspects of biologically active low molecular substances and biopolymers.

The variegated nature of the problems considered in this book are in keeping with the broad scientific interests of Mikhail Shemyakin. Preparing this volume, we, his students addressed ourselves to his friends and colleagues with the request to write for it articles on the subjects which hold their minds at the present moment. The request was favorably met by an International pleiad of scientists: Nobel laureates D.H.R. Barton (France), H.G. Khorana, L. Pauling and R.B. Woodward (USA), and V. Prelog (Switzerland); Professors A.E. Braunstein (USSR), E. Lederer (France), Yu.A. Ovchinnikov (USSR), Th. Wieland (FRG), B. Witkop (USA), and their colleagues.

We are deeply grateful to all the authors for this token of respect to Shemyakin's memory, his outstanding scientific achievements, and his significant contribution to the furthering of international scientific collaboration.

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