

Preface

CHEMRAWN XII was the first of the CHEMRAWN series of conferences to be held in Southern Africa. CHEMRAWN (**chemical research applied to world needs**) is a standing committee of IUPAC and has over the years organized a number of important conferences focusing on specific issues of global interests. These conferences often bring together scientists, government leaders and policy makers to address major global issues which could be resolved via chemistry. CHEMRAWN XII took place at Stellenbosch University, South Africa over the period 2–5 December 2007. Delegates came from all over Africa as well as from other parts of the developed and developing world. The conference was organized along the following broad themes:

- adequate, safe, and affordable food for Africa
- African agriculture in a global context: chemistry as the enabler
- securing and sustaining water and soil quality for agricultural production
- technologies to reduce post-harvest food loss
- the role of agriculture in building a sustainable energy base
- the role of chemicals in sustainable agriculture
- the safe development and application of biotechnology in agricultural production
- value-added and niche chemicals from agricultural produce

This issue of *Pure and Applied Chemistry (PAC)* contains some of the papers presented at CHEMRAWN XII. The topics of these papers encompass many of the major themes of the conference and reflect the varied contributions of speakers from a range of countries. It is heartening to see papers from researchers based at institutions in developing countries. I would like to thank all those colleagues who made the effort to submit full manuscripts arising from their lectures at the conference.

Selwyn Mapolie
Conference Editor