

PREFACE

The IAU symposium No. 150 "Astrochemistry of Cosmic Phenomena" was held at the beautiful and scenic town of Campos do Jordao, Sao Paulo, Brazil from August 5 to 9, 1991, and was attended by 111 registered participants with 17 accompanied guests from 19 countries. The symposium had a wide ranging discussion of the chemistry of astronomical environments with an emphasis on the description of molecular processes that critically influence the nature and evolution of astronomical objects and the identification of specific observations that directly address significant astronomical questions. The subject areas of the symposium included atomic and molecular processes at low and high temperatures and photon interactions, the chemical structure of molecular clouds in the Milky Way and in external galaxies, the chemistry of outflows and their interactions with the interstellar medium, the chemical connections between the interstellar medium and the solar system and pregalactic chemistry. The scientific programme comprised of review talks and contributed papers, with a general introduction by Professor A. Dalgarno and a final overview of the whole symposium by Professor D.A. Williams.

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I am greatly indebted to Professor A. Dalgarno, Chairman of the Scientific Organising Committee, for the success of the conference and for organising the scientific contents of the program. I am thankful to Professors Walter F. Huebner and J. Mayo Greenberg who accepted the invitation to participate in the symposium. I am grateful to the members of Local Organising Committee, especially Dr. A. A. de Almeida who proved himself as the backbone of the committee. Last but not the least, I am thankful to Miss Maria Saete Vaceli who took a great pain in making the conference a great success.

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P.D. Singh