

PREFACE

Membranes are playing a central role in our daily life. The membranes processes are used in a wide range of applications. Due to their physical and chemical properties the new class of inorganic membranes will play an important part, along with organic polymer membranes, in many applications. So a special Conference will be devoted to this field in the future each two or three years around the world.

The First International Conference was held in Montpellier, France, under the guidance of Prof. L. COT and Dr. J. CHARPIN. It provided with up to date results on research and new applications. This Conference has been a perfect opportunity to initiate new international cooperations and to favour the creation of new bridges between the R and D Departments of University and Industry.

The Second Conference, ICIM2, took place in Montpellier, France in July 1991, according to the general wish of the participants of ICIM2, under the guidance of Profs. A.J. BURGGRAAF, L. COT, and Dr. J. CHARPIN. It was organized in three parts:

- 62 lectures divided in four Sessions: "New organic membranes, Membranes formation", "Mass transfer", "Processes & applications", "Technico-economic aspects & Prospects"
- 66 posters dealing with these topics
- an industrial exhibition of membrane materials and systems

Three hundred and twelve participants have attended this meeting, coming from 23 countries; more than 40% were members of private companies.

If ICIM1 was devoted to the up to date results on research and applications of the inorganic membranes, ICIM2 was looking to the next future; the principal points are the development of new membranes (as nanomembranes) or new processes (gas separation and catalysis). A one day-session was reserved to the technico-economical aspects of such processes, and the prevision of their development.

We would like to thank all who have contributed to the success of this Conference, the hard-working Organizing Committee, but also the Scientific Committee, and all who have brought their financial support.

The next meeting, ICIM3, will be held in United States, Boston area, in June 1994.

Montpellier, France, July 1991
A.J. BURGGRAAF, J. CHARPIN, L. COT, Chairmen ICIM2

