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PRODUCTION EDITOR: Howard Waller

All correspondence to be addressed to The Editor, Chemistry International, IUPAC Secretariat, PO Box 13757, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709-3757, USA. Telephone: +1 (919) 485 8700. Fax: +1 (919) 485 8706. E-mail: johnwjost@compuserve.com and <http://chemistry.rsc.org/rsc/iupac.htm>

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PO Box 13757, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709-3757, USA. Tel.: +1 (919) 485 8700. Fax +1 (919) 485 8706. E-mail: johnwjost@compuserve.com

The International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC), formed in 1919, is a voluntary non-governmental, non-profit association of organizations, each of which represents the chemists of a member country.

Its objectives are:

- to promote continuing co-operation among the chemists of the member countries;
- to study topics of international importance to pure and applied chemistry which need regulation, standardization, or codification;
- to co-operate with other international organizations which deal with topics of a chemical nature;
- to contribute to the advancement of pure and applied chemistry in all its aspects.

The membership of IUPAC presently comprises 39 countries, each represented by a national organization, such as an academy of science or research council.

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1997, Vol. 19, No. 5 (September)

- 151 Relocation of the IUPAC Secretariat**
- 152 The President's Report**
Albert E. Fischli
- 156 Secretary General's Report**
Edwin D. Becker
- 158 Biennial Report of the Treasurer and Finance Committee**
J.W. Ward
- 160 Treasurer's Review 1991–1997**
J.W. Ward
- 161 Relocation of IUPAC Archival Material**
- 163 Recent Reports**
- 169 PAC Review**
- 170 News**
- 173 New Publication**
- 173 Conferences**
- 174 Conference Calendar**

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