NATO Workshop on Ionic Soft Matter

On 14–17 April 2004 the NATO Advanced Research Workshop (ARW) on Ionic Soft Matter convened in the beautiful and historic city of Lviv. This was only the second NATO ARW to be held in Ukraine at that time. The choice of Lviv as a host site of the workshop was not by an accident. The Lviv tradition in physical and mathematical sciences goes back to Marian Smoluchowski (1872–1917) who was a Professor at Lviv University early in the last century and Stefan Banach (1892–1945) who was a Professor at Lviv Polytechnic University in the middle of the last century. The Lviv scientific group, known in its present form as the Institute for Condensed Matter Physics, was founded by Professor Ihor Yukhnovskii and belongs to the Bogolubov school of theoretical physics. This group has become well known within the scientific community due to fundamental ground-breaking research on electrolyte solutions.

The Workshop owes a great debt to Professor Douglas Henderson, whose introductory remarks constitute the first article of this volume. In my own third visit to Lviv, it is great pleasure to thank the local organizers Olexandre Ivankiv, Ihor Mryglod and Andrij Trokhymchuk. Most importantly, it is a pleasure to thank Professors Ihor Yuknovskii and Myroslav Holovko for their hospitality and profound contributions to our field over many years. Through their energy, they and their colleagues and students have created a “school” of scientific excellence which has rightfully taken its place on the European Stage.

This volume contains 14 refereed papers arising from speakers at the Lviv meeting. The papers cover three central topics of the conference: Theory and Computer Simulations of Electrolytes (articles by J. Khalack, M. Druchok, W. Fawcett, C. Outhwaite, S. Odinaev); Ionic Criticality and Interfaces (articles by J.M. Caillol, O. Patsahan, M. González-Melchor, O. Pizio, J. Reszko-Zygmunt) as well as Chornobyl and other related Applications (articles by V. Lykah, C. Vautrin-Ul, O. Zhydkov, V. Zhydkov).

It is my great pleasure to thank the speakers at the workshop and contributors to this volume, and to wish the readers of this volume equal enjoyment.

Tony Haymet
Chief, Marine Research
CSIRO Australia