Preface

19th International Meeting on Organic Geochemistry
Istanbul, Turkey, 6–10 September 1999

The 19th International Meeting on Organic Geochemistry was held in the truly cross-continental city of Istanbul, between 6 and 10 September 1999. It was hosted by the Marmara Research Center (MRC) of the Scientific and Technical Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK). The Local Organising Committee consisting of members from MRC-TÜBİTAK, Turkish Petroleum Corporation (TPAO) and Istanbul University has coordinated and run the meeting.

417 abstracts from 33 countries were received and evaluated by the Scientific Committee. 81 abstracts were selected for oral presentations and 303 abstracts for poster presentations, but, due to the unfortunate earthquake of 17th August 1999 that occurred in the İzmit area, 70 km east of Istanbul, the Organising Committee was challenged and had to decide whether to go ahead with or postpone the meeting. Since the conditions in Istanbul regarding the meeting were really not influenced by the earthquake, we decided to continue. The following 3 weeks were a hard time for both the Local Committee and the EAOG Board and particularly for its president, Dr. Brian Horsfield. Keeping the potential delegates up to date on the real situation in Istanbul was a really challenging job because the media reported only the most speculative aspects regarding the earthquake. We did our best and we believe we succeeded because we had only 43 withdrawals and 342 delegates and 18 accompanying persons attended the meeting.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to the EAOG Board for their continuous interest and support and to its president Dr. Horsfield for his support and efforts during the critical time period after the earthquake.

The Scientific Committee performed a very difficult task selecting poster and oral presentation which enabled us to have a successful meeting. Therefore, our special thanks go out to F. Behar, S. Derenne, P. Farrimond, K. Freeman, P. Garrigues, R. Littke, J. R. Maxwell, A.G. Requejo, C. Saiz-Jimenes and A. Wilhelms.

We also would like to thank the key note speaker; Professor Dr. A.M.C. Sengör (Technical University of Istanbul) and the guest speakers Associate Professor Dr. Y. Yığıtgüden (Undersecretary, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources), Mr. O. Demirağ (General Director, TPAO) and Mr. Ö. Kaymakçalan (former President of MRC).

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The Local Organising Committee

M. Namık Yağcı (Conference Chairman), Istanbul University and TÜBİTAK, MRC
Cengiz Soylu (Conference Secretary) Turkish Petroleum Corporation
Burcu Cânci-Günal, Turkish Petroleum Corporation
Gülbin Gürdal, TÜBİTAK, MRC
Hakan Hoşgörmez, Istanbul University
H. İsmail İllez, Turkish Petroleum Corporation
Sedat İnan, TÜBİTAK, MRC
Halit E. Öçzan, Turkish Petroleum Corporation
Nilgün Örencik, TÜBİTAK, MRC
Ayla Unat, TÜBİTAK, MRC
Feridun A. Uğur, Turkish Petroleum Corporation