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Foreword

This Special Issue has been organised to celebrate the distinguished career of Professor Brian Vincent. Brian started as a chemistry undergraduate in Bristol in 1961. After obtaining a 1st class honours degree in Chemistry and an M.Sc. in Surface Chemistry and Colloids with commendation, he began a Ph.D. under the supervision of Ron Ottewill in 1965. After successfully defending his thesis, Brian then moved to Wageningen to work in Hans Lyklema's laboratory on a Royal Society Fellowship. This was to be the start of a lifelong friendship and scientific collaboration with the Colloid and Physical Chemistry Group there. After returning to the UK in 1969 Brian took up a joint post at ICI Paints Division and Bristol University which in 1972 became a full time lecturing position at Bristol. In 1982 he obtained a D.Sc. in Chemistry and was promoted to Reader in 1983. In 1992 he was appointed to a Chair in Physical Chemistry and in 1993 became the 5th Leverhulme Professor in Physical Chemistry. In 1994, together with Dr Jim Goodwin, Brian founded the very successful Bristol Colloid Centre, an organisation which carries out short-term research and consultancy work for industry.

Brian has served as Chair of the SCI Surface Chemistry and Colloids Group from 1988 to 1992 and has also been a member of the SCI Council and Executive Committee. He was elected the Chair of the RSC Colloid and Interface Science Group in 2000 and has served on the Council of the Faraday Division of the RSC. He served as President of IACIS from 2003 to 2006. Brian has played a prominent role in bringing together the various societies that influence and drive Colloid Science throughout the world. Another prominent activity which Brian initiated are the European student conferences in Colloid Science which began in 1981 as a joint activity between Bristol and Wageningen but now involve many of the leading Colloid Groups in Europe.

Brian has received many honours including the SCI Founder's Lecture and Award, the SCI Distinguished Service Award, the RSC award in Surface and Colloid Chemistry and the Reh binder Lecture and Medal (Moscow). He has had numerous invitations to give lectures throughout the world and has published over 250 papers, articles, books and patents during his career. He has also been very active at the academia / industry interface and has been a consultant for many of the leading companies that use colloid technology worldwide.

The contributors to this special issue comprise a selection of Brian's past students and postdocs who have themselves pursued academic careers, as well as other colleagues with whom he has worked extensively. The range of the subject material highlights Brian's own very broad interests in colloid science; it also reflects his long-standing interest in both the academic fundamentals as well as practical applications of the subject. This volume is dedicated to Brian in recognition of his considerable contribution to the world of Colloid Science and to the guidance and inspiration he has given to many future generations of Colloid Scientists.

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