

Preface

We are pleased to serve as Guest Editors for this special thematic issue of *Main Group Chemistry* on the chemistry of sulfur and selenium. This issue highlights contributions from a symposium on sulfur and selenium chemistry that we organized as part of the Southeastern Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society (SERMACS '07) that was held in Greenville, South Carolina, on 25 October 2007. This special issue of *Main Group Chemistry* covers a wide array of topics related to sulfur and selenium chemistry, as did the SERMACS symposium, including the syntheses of coordination complexes supported by new sulfur- and selenium-containing ligands, heavy metal remediation, bioinorganic, organometallic and supramolecular chemistry, and the preparation of novel chalcogen-containing materials. Close examination of the titles for these papers shows that our two favorite chalcogens have a rich and versatile chemistry and, despite the penetrating smell of many of their compounds, they feature an impressive range of applications.

We are grateful to Professor David Atwood, Editor of *Main Group Chemistry*, for his unwavering encouragement and enthusiasm since we started planning the 'S and Se in the SE' Symposium almost two years ago, and to Taylor & Francis, publishers of *Main Group Chemistry*, for providing generous financial support for assisting us in organizing it. We also thank Professors Tim Hanks (Furman University) and Bill Pennington (Clemson University), the General and Program Chairs of SERMACS '07, respectively, for additional funds and for the freedom they gave us to shape the Symposium in a way that reflects the diversity that permeates the chemistry of sulfur and selenium. Last but not least, we are indebted to each and every contributor to this issue of *Main Group Chemistry* for being a source of chemical inspiration and insightful writing. May you all continue doing beautiful sulfur and selenium chemistry for many years to come!

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