



It gives us great pleasure to present this special issue of the Croatian Journal of Food Technology, Biotechnology and Nutrition in which 12 selected themes, presented at the 7th International Congress of Food Technologists, Biotechnologists and Nutritionists, were highlighted.

The Congress has been traditionally held since 1977 and the 7th gathering was co-organized by the Faculty of Food Technology and Biotechnology, University of Zagreb, and the Croatian Society of Food Technologists, Biotechnologists and Nutritionists. The conference was held in Opatija, Croatia, from September 20th to 23rd, 2011, under the patronage of the President of the Republic of Croatia, and under auspices of: Ministry of Science, Education and Sports of the Republic of Croatia; Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development; and Ministry of Health and Social Care of the Republic of Croatia as well as Croatian Chamber of Economy.

The Congress addressed 11 main topics, as follows: (i) Food, Health and Nutrition; (ii) Food Quality, Safety and Regulation; (iii) Food and Consumers; (iv) Food Engineering; (v) Food Chemistry: Natural Antioxidants and Antimicrobials; (vi) Food Ingredients and Functional Food; (vii) Biotechnology and Bioprocess Engineering; (viii) Medical and Pharmaceutical Biotechnology; (ix) Wastewater: Treatment, Reuse and Legislation; (x) Nutrigenomics and Nutrigenetics; and (xi) Clinical Nutrition. More than 200 scientists, developing innovative processes and new products, presented their recent research focused on an array of subjects: new concepts in the growing world of functional foods; interpretation of future demand for biotechnological and food products and market response; food quality, safety, regulation and consequences thereof on human health, economy and society; then improving use of renewable resources and by-streams, and energy consumption; production of biofuels and biochemicals; *in silico*-based approach for process design and prediction of the outcomes; -omics platforms; *etc.* The 7th conference was great opportunity for the scientist and engineers to meet, disseminate state-of-the-art and recent progress in different fields, and to enhance future collaborative research activities.

Invited lectures earned very special attention. Professors P. Raspor (Slovenia), D. Knorr (Germany), U. Kulozik (Germany), Đ. Josić (Croatia, USA), Z. Rengel (Australia), O. Martin (Spain), J. Z. Ilich-Ernest (USA), M. Serafini (Italy), H. Alpas (Turkey), and B. Nidetzky (Austria) clearly identified areas in which implementation of recent developments would be especially valuable and they offered a fresh view of emerging procedures in advancing sustainability and benefits

of a wide range of the food and biotechnological processes. The invited lecturers have communicated their enthusiasm and provoked further discussion.

All participants' contributions were collected in the Book of Abstracts in printed format and the Proceedings of the 7th International Congress of Food Technologists, Biotechnologists and Nutritionists was generated in electronic format. The participants of the Conference were encouraged to seek separate publications of their contributions in two scientific journals - Food Technology and Biotechnology and the Croatian Journal of Food Technology, Biotechnology and Nutrition (CJFTBN). For CJFTBN, it has been found convenient to publish 12 papers, proved through regular editing and reviewing of the manuscripts, in the special issue of this journal.

We thanks to all members of the Scientific committee and the Organizing committee, the Conference chairpersons, especially to the keynote speakers as well as to referees for their work in ensuring that the 7th International Congress of Food Technologists, Biotechnologists and Nutritionists was a success. We would also like to acknowledge the efforts of the institutions and companies who made this important conference possible.

We would like to thank the authors for putting together this exciting journal issue. We wish you enjoy reading thorough our special issue and hope that these papers will trigger some new ideas and scopes in the field.

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