

FOREWORD TO THE MEDICHEM SECTION

This section brings six articles based on the presentations given at two international meetings in 2011 that were organised by MEDICHEM, the international scientific association for occupational and environmental health in the production and use of chemicals: MEDICHEM 2011 Congress held in June 2011 in Heidelberg, Germany under the motto “Occupational Health in a Changing World” and MEDICHEM Mini Symposium held in November 2011 in Vienna, Austria entitled “Occupational Carcinogens: Exposure Scenarios and Health Risks”.

Special thanks go to MEDICHEM Board Chairman, Thirumalai Rajgopal, all Board members, and particularly to Maren Beth-Hübner, chief organiser of MEDICHEM 2011, for accepting the offer of the journal’s editors and providing them with the opportunity to ask the Congress participants to submit their congress presentations in the form of manuscripts to be considered for publication in *Archives of Industrial Hygiene and Toxicology*. Extended report on MEDICHEM 2011 by Maren Beth-Hübner is published separately. Furthermore, the help of Robert Winker should also be acknowledged, as he organised 2011 MEDICHEM Mini Symposium in Vienna and extended the same offer of publishing presentations in our journal to the meeting participants.

On behalf of the journal editors, I want to express my gratitude to the authors who submitted their manuscripts to be considered for publication in *Archives of Industrial Hygiene and Toxicology*. By publishing their articles in this theme section, our journal continues to follow the long-standing tradition of its publishing institution, the Institute for Medical Research and Occupational Health (IMROH), Zagreb, Croatia, of being closely connected to the meetings

and activities of the International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH) and MEDICHEM, whose Board acts also as the ICOH Scientific Committee on Occupational Health in the Chemical Industry. These include IMROH’s organisation of the ICOH Congress in Croatia 1978 in Dubrovnik, after which Marko Šarić, IMROH’s former Director, became an honorary MEDICHEM member. Furthermore, interesting and less known linked fact is that late Birgitta Haeger-Aronsen, who was the first MEDICHEM Secretary in the early 1970s, was also the Corresponding Member of the Department of Medical Sciences at the Croatian Academy of Science and Arts in Zagreb. More recently, in January 2007, IMROH hosted the mid-term meeting of MEDICHEM Board members. This event was followed by a jointly organised half-day Mini Symposium, which embraced professional and scientific presentations from both sides: MEDICHEM Board members and IMROH’s researchers.

Last but not least, special gratitude in publishing MEDICHEM papers in this issue goes to the following Board members, who are also the journal’s Advisory Board members, for their valuable assistance in connecting MEDICHEM 2011 Congress and Mini Symposium delegates to our journal, as well as for their active participation in writing and/or reviewing the MEDICHEM theme part of this issue, first and foremost to Michael Nasterlack, as well as to Robert Winker, Diane J. Mundt, and Stephen W. Borron.

Archives of Industrial Hygiene and Toxicology looks forward to participating in future MEDICHEM activities.

Martina Piasek,
Guest Editor to the MEDICHEM section