

Preface

This special issue of *Food Technology and Biotechnology* brings forward the peer-reviewed papers presented at the 7th International Congress of Food Technologists, Biotechnologists and Nutritionists held in Opatija, Croatia, on 20–23 September 2011. The organizers of the Congress were the Croatian Society of Food Technologists, Biotechnologists and Nutritionists and the Faculty of Food Technology and Biotechnology, University of Zagreb, cosponsored by EFFoST (*European Federation of Food Science and Technology*) and IUFoST (*International Union of Food Science and Technology*). The motto of the Congress was FOOD – THE CHALLENGE AND THE NEED. The main topics covered by the Congress included: Food, Health and Nutrition; Food Quality, Safety and Regulation; Food and Consumers; Food Engineering; Food Chemistry; Natural Antioxidants and Antimicrobials, Food Ingredients and Functional Food; Nutrigenomics and Nutrigenetics; Clinical Nutrition; Biotechnology and Bioprocess Engineering; Medical and Pharmaceutical Biotechnology; and Wastewater: Treatment, Reuse and Legislation. The Congress program included 9 plenary lectures, 40 oral presentations, 200 poster presentations and sponsored lectures of economic subjects operating in the fields related to the event. Furthermore, the Congress also gave unique opportunity for food scientists, researchers, technologists, producers and nutritionists, as well as young scientists and students to present the results and findings of their own work and to discuss about international co-operation within 7 EU frame program. All participants had a chance to learn about a variety of subjects such as challenges that our industry is facing in the time of huge environmental and demographic changes, or different technological solutions and ideas in the fields of food science, biotechnology and nutrition.

Manuscripts published in this issue of *Food Technology and Biotechnology* were selected from the excellent presentations given by the invited speakers as well as contributed lectures and poster presentations from the field of food technology, biotechnology and nutrition.

Presented research covering the field of food technology contributes to the increase of the food product quality, using the novel, advanced technological processes. Furthermore, food safety and quality are facing modified and improved definition, thus it was concluded that the concern not only of scientists but industry as well is raised now more than ever. This happens on the global level, thus the solutions should be made globally for the benefits of mankind.

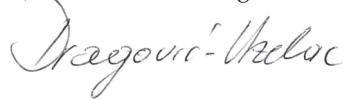
The second conclusion was that developments in biotechnology enabled scientists to play with molecules, whole cells, co-cultures or mixed cultures using microreactors, lab-scale reactors and integrated systems, but also to meet the requirements of the industry. New products especially food, drugs, and energy have to be made from renewable new materials.

Papers from the field of nutrition presented at the Congress give an overview of the research on bioactive ingredients in food, and they create a link between the food, nutrition and human health.

We are grateful to Prof Vladimir Mrša, Editor-in-Chief of the journal, who recognized and supported our proposal to bring out this special issue of the journal based on the peer-reviewed papers. We acknowledge our sincere gratitude to the reviewers, who evaluated the manuscripts in a timely fashion. We are also thankful to Ms Ines Macan, Ms Iva Grabarić Andonovski and Ms Zrinka Pongrac Habdija and all others at the Editorial and Publisher's Office associated with bringing out this special issue.

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