

Preface

The 12th International Symposium on Carotenoids is the first symposium held under the auspices of the International Carotenoid Society (<http://www.carotenoid.uconn.edu>), and the first time the symposium has been held in the Southern Hemisphere. Nevertheless, it is the latest in a long and distinguished series of meetings on carotenoids that began under IUPAC sponsorship with a small symposium held in Trondheim, Norway in 1966. As interest in this fascinating family of molecules has increased over the years, so has attendance at the symposia. At the 11th symposium, held in Leiden, the Netherlands, in 1996, it was realized that the field of carotenoid science was broad and diverse enough to justify an international society devoted to its promulgation. The International Carotenoid Society was inaugurated at that meeting. The Society exists to promote all areas of carotenoid science, pure and applied, and one of its main responsibilities is the organization of future symposia.

The symposium was held in Cairns, Australia, from 18–23 July 1999. The program covered all of the major areas of carotenoid research, including chemistry and analysis, biosynthesis, biotechnology, bioavailability and metabolism, biological functions, photosynthesis, medicine and nutrition, and commercial applications. The symposium featured 11 invited lectures, 68 presentations in special interest sessions, and 71 poster contributions. The total registration was 233.

On behalf of all participants, we would like to thank the Local Organizing Committee—Chair Lance Schlipalius, Roger Hiller, Tom Bruynel and Ron Tume, and their helpers, whose dedicated work ensured a memorable symposium.

The participants and the International Carotenoid Society Committee are most grateful to the IUPAC for their sponsorship and support, and for allowing publication of the Proceedings in *Pure and Applied Chemistry*. They also thank the companies and Institutions listed below, without whose support the symposium would not have been possible.

- F. Hoffman-La Roche, Ltd. Betatene Pty. Ltd.
- LycoRed Natural Products Industries, Ltd. Wyeth-Ayerst Laboratories, Inc.
- Rehnberg Center of Nutrition & Wellness, F. H. Faulding & Co., Ltd.
- Nutrilite Division of Amway Corp.
- Nikken Sohonsa Co. Far North Queensland Promotional Bureau;
- Henkel Corp. University of Connecticut;
- Kraft Foods, Inc. Suntory Co., Ltd.
- Thomas J. Lipton Co. Chr. Hansen A/S.

The symposium editors wish to thank all of the invited speakers who provided manuscripts of high quality, and met the deadlines necessary to produce this volume, which we hope will be a useful record of the Symposium for those who attended, and for those who could not. As one can see from perusing the pages following, it is becoming increasingly clear that carotenoids are a unique class of molecules that not only pique scientific curiosity, but also perform a variety of fundamentally important biological and nonbiological functions.

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Symposium Editors