



## Guest editorial

## Advances in chitin/chitosan science and their applications

The special issue contains selected papers from the 11th International Conference on Chitin and Chitosan (11th ICC), held in Taipei, Taiwan, on September 6–9, 2009. The 11th ICC followed the scope and spirit established by the previous 10 ICCs, a series of international meetings focusing on fundamentals and applications of chitin/chitosan, a polysaccharide attracting much attention from the worldwide research community. The contents of the special issue present the current trend in chitin/chitosan research and reflect the theme of the 11th ICC: Green, Technology, and Health.

The 11th ICC, also comprising the 8th Asia-Pacific Chitin and Chitosan Symposium, was organized by the Taiwan Society of Chitin and Chitosan. A total of 199 papers were presented at the conference, including six plenary lectures, 14 keynote lectures, 48 oral presentations, and 131 posters. The plenary lecturers included Dr. Chi-Huey Wong from Taiwan, Prof. Seiichi Tokura from Japan, Prof. Alain Domard from France, Prof. Chong-Su Cho from Korea, Prof. Gregory Payne from United States, and Prof. Kjell Varum from Norway. The conference program is composed of the following sessions:

- Resources and production.
- Biological and ecological aspects.
- Monomers and oligomers.
- Enzymology.
- Physical and physicochemical aspects.
- Nanotechnology.
- Industrial and commercial applications.
- Application in life sciences.
- Novel applications.

Selected papers from the conference were invited for submission to this special issue. All the contributions were peer-reviewed to ensure the quality of the selections. After rigorous reviews, 25 papers were accepted for publication in this issue. Two of the plenary speakers agreed to publish their lectures here, including Prof. Alain Domard's paper discussing his 30-years research on chitin and chitosan and Prof. Gregory Payne's paper on application of chitosan to lab-on-a-chip devices. Articles contained in the special issue present the state-of-the-art of chitin and chitosan research. From the contents one can see clearly that "Nanotechnology" and

"Application in Life Sciences" are two major trends emerging from current chitin/chitosan research.

We wish to express our gratitude to the authors who submitted their excellent works to this special issue and all the reviewers who helped us to ensure the quality of the issue. We also very much appreciate the editors of the journal, Profs. J.F. Kennedy, J.R. Mitchell, Y.J. Wang, for accepting our proposal to publish this special issue. And, we are indebted to Prof. J.R. Mitchell, the receiving editor of the issue. Without his kind help in editing it, publication of the special issue would have been impossible.

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