

Preface

The Latin American Congress on Food Carotenoids was convened on September 14-17, 1998 in Campinas, São Paulo, Brazil, with the following objectives:

1. To provide Latin American researchers with up-to-date scientific and technological information on various aspects related to carotenoids;
2. To discuss and integrate research findings on carotenoids in Latin America and stimulate practical applications of these results in the industrial-economic development and improvement of the public health status of the region;
3. To identify carotenoid-related research needs and priorities in Latin American and to stimulate collaborative work, thereby increasing the research capacity of the region.

The congress brought together 90 participants from different fields of studies, with speakers from Switzerland, England, U.S., Germany, Argentina, Chile, Mexico, Venezuela and Brazil. Research papers were also presented orally and as posters. The animated discussions that followed the presentations reflected the profound interest the different topics had drawn among the participants. The conference covered the many facets of carotenoids from the basic science to applications in health, nutrition and food science and technology. The wealth of information generated merits publication, hence this special supplement of the *Archivos Latinoamericanos de Nutrición*. Unfortunately, for one reason another, the supplement does not include the excellent lectures of Dr. Hanspeter Pfander and Dr. George Britton. Dr. Pfander talked on "Carotenoids - Colors for Life", "Carotenoid Chemistry: Synthesis, Reactions, Oxidation" and "Identification and Structure Elucidation". Dr. Britton lectured on "Current Knowledge of Carotenoid Biosynthesis" and "Relation Between Structure, Properties and Functions".

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