

## EDITORIAL

It is with great pleasure that we present this Special Issue of **Drug Metabolism and Drug Interactions** as a "Part-Proceedings" of the 1st International Symposium on Sulphur Xenobiochemistry which was held at King's College London, England during 5th-8th September, 1988.

Organosulphur compounds play an important role in numerous biochemical processes (see James & Powell et al., this issue). In the last few decades, sulphur and its organic and inorganic derivatives have found increasing use in industry, agriculture and medicine (see Mitchard, this issue). This extensive use of "sulphur" exposes most biological systems which includes microorganisms, plants and animals, to either products containing sulphur, or to waste products containing sulphur. The use of sulphur compounds in medicine constitutes the intentional exposure of man to this class of chemicals. This requires that we have a clear understanding of the effects and fate of sulphur compounds in various living systems.

The objectives of the "Sulphur Symposium 88" were to assemble many of the active researchers in this area for in-depth discussions on various aspects of sulphur xenobiochemistry. The contributions of most of the invited review-type lectures are included in **Sulphur-Containing Drugs and Related Organic Compounds: Chemistry, Biochemistry and Toxicology** (edited by L.A. Damani, Ellis Horwood Ltd., Chichester, U.K., Volumes 1-3, 1989). This Journal kindly offered the possibility of publishing the more current experimental work presented at the conference in a Special Issue on "Sulphur Xenobiochemistry".

This special issue starts with some general reviews, which provide a right orientation to the subject of sulphur xenobiochemistry, and follows with fifteen original papers on various aspects of sulphur compound metabolism, pharmacokinetics and toxicity. We do hope that this "Part-Proceedings" encapsulates the lively spirit of the "Sulphur Symposium 88", and that readers find this enjoyable and useful.

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**November 1988**

