

Book Reviews

Nutritional Toxicology

Second Edition, Frank N. Kotsonis and Maureen A. Mackey, (Eds) ISBN 0415248655. Published by Taylor & Francis, London and New York. 2002. 461 Pages

This volume is published in the Target Organ Toxicology Series. It contains 17 chapters providing up-to-date coverage of highly interesting topics in current nutritional science. The authors are wellknown in their respective area of research, and it is a pleasure to go through the material. There is no Preface or Introductory Chapter, the book starts right off with a chapter on "antioxidant nutrients and protection from free radicals" by Doyle and Pariza, followed by "carotenoids and health risk" by Kraczek and Erdman and "the role of nutrients in detoxification mechanisms" by Netter. This concludes the micronutrient section (which is not identified as such).

Fuchs then contributed a chapter on "foods derived from genetically modified crop plants", followed by "allergic reactions and food intolerances" by Taylor and Hefle. "Ethanol toxicity and nutritional status" by Seitz and Suter are next, followed by "interactions between foods, nutritional supplements and drugs" by Thomas and Cotter and "phytosterols in human health" by Kritchevsky.

Regulatory aspects are also presented: "threshold of regulation: a unifying concept in food safety assessment" by Flamm, Kotsonis and Hjelle, "biotechnology-derived and novel foods: safety approaches and regulations" by Speijers, Younes "safety, effectiveness and Bergmans, and labeling of self-care products" by Soller. The editors, Mackey and Kotsonis, then follow with

"functional foods: regulatory and scientific considerations"

The final topics are: "Estimation of food chemical intake" by Tennant, "postmarketing surveillance in the food industry: the aspartame case study" by Butchko and Stargel, "regulation of flavor ingredients" by Burdock, "food irradiation" by Elias, and finally "mechanistic considerations in the regulation and classification of chemical carcinogens" by McClain.

According to the interests of the authors, some chapters are more nutritionally oriented, some are more focused on fundamentals, others on regulatory aspects. This makes for diversity, and the chapters are written at a good standard throughout.

Thus, the book can be recommended to basic researchers, nutritionally/clinically oriented investigators, as well as students and interested lay persons who would like to become familiar with the field. In particular, the book might also be useful for individuals active as opinion leaders, in order to get first-hand information on the state-of-the-art in this field which has led to some controversy in the public. Some of that controversy may have simply been due to lack of pertinent information. In that sense the current book becomes important beyond its scientific merit.

> HELMUT SIES Düsseldorf

