Foreword

This special supplement to the *Journal of Cellular Biochemistry* is the seventh in a series containing the proceedings of conferences sponsored by the National Cancer Institute (NCI), Chemoprevention Branch. The subject of this issue is progress in the development of cancer chemopreventive agents as drugs for clinical use and is from the conference *Cancer Chemopreventive Agents: Drug Development Status and Future Prospects*, held in Princeton, New Jersey, October 18–22, 1994. Two special supplements will be devoted to this conference.

The manuscripts in this supplement provide an overview of the current NCI, Chemoprevention Branch strategies for drug development and were prepared originally for distribution at the conference. The first article considers potential mechanisms of chemopreventive activity and is conceptual groundwork for chemopreventive drug discovery, leading to structure-activity and mechanistic studies that identify and evaluate new agents. The second article summarizes the collaborative effort of the NCI and the FDA to develop guidance in evaluating chemopreventive agents for drug marketing approval. The third article discusses the use of animal tumor models to assess chemopreventive efficacy and presents results of such testing. The remainder and major portion of this volume is Clinical Development Plans for 16 chemopreventive agents that showed significant promise when their development was undertaken and have made progress in clinical studies. These plans summarize the status of the agents regarding evidence for safety and chemopreventive efficacy in preclinical and clinical studies. They also contain the strategy for further development of the drugs that addresses pharmacodynamics, drug effect measurements, intermediate biomarkers for monitoring efficacy, toxicity, supply and formulation, regulatory approval, and proposed clinical trials.

The second supplement dedicated to this conference (Supplement 22) will contain manuscripts of presentations made by scientists at the conference. These presentations included primary data and issues in drug development for promising chemopreventive agents, both those advanced in development and new candidates.