



## Preface

The Society for Industrial Microbiology (SIM) was organized on December 29, 1949 at a meeting held at the McAlpin Hotel in New York City with well over 250 in attendance: 33 signed membership cards. By 1960, membership had increased 20-fold. As the Society grew, the need for a special organ dedicated to its interests became evident. This was especially true because of the high quality of many of the presentations at the annual meetings of the Society. In 1958 a decision was made to publish an annual series dedicated to the proceedings of the annual meetings. Volume One of *Developments in Industrial Microbiology* (DIM) was published in 1960. The data, discussions, and general knowledge were to be 'widely disseminated and be of help to the workers in the field of industrial microbiology'.

When the decision was made to produce a Special Issue of JIMB commemorating the 50th Anniversary of SIM's founding, which was to consist of papers presented at SIM meetings and published in DIM, the guest editors decided to concentrate on selections from the first 26 volumes (subsequent volumes consisted initially only of papers from selected Symposia, and later were the proceedings of special SIM Conferences). Moreover, concentrating on the earlier volumes would appropriately emphasize the historical aspects. It would also bring to the attention of the newer generations some of what we believe to be significant and lasting contributions of the Society.

Many landmark contributions in these 26 volumes have stood the test of time. DIM authors have been pioneers in Space Microbiology, Petroleum Microbiology, Biodeterioration, Fermentation, Antimicrobial Agents, Biodegradation, Metal Microbiology, as well as in other areas.

The selection of papers from the 1350 published over 26 years, including Thom, ONR and Presidential addresses, as well as Symposia and contributed presentations, was not an easy task. The choices were based on at least one of several factors, including the significance at the time of publication, the pioneering impact on the specific field, and the longevity of the scientific contribution. Initially, after much soul searching and head scratching, the Guest Editors proudly submitted a selection of 77 papers. We then learned that this would exceed the space allotted by more than 100%. The subsequent cuts were indeed painful! Although the selections were made by the Guest Editors, the final compilation was reviewed and agreed to by the Editor-in-Chief and the Senior Editors of the Journal. We apologize for what might appear to some to be sins of omission or of inclusion. To paraphrase WS Gilbert (*The Pirates of Penzance*), 'An editor's lot is not a happy one!'

Guest Editors: AI Laskin  
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