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Introduction

Published online: 13 May 2003
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Tremendous advances have been made in the use of Biocatalysis and Biotransformation for the development of environmentally benign products and processes that can compete with conventional chemical processing. It is timely to produce a Special Issue of the Journal of Industrial Microbiology and Biotechnology covering subjects that can provide practicing biochemists, microbiologists, molecular biologists and biochemical engineers with effective tools for meeting future challenges in the field.

This Special Issue was developed from two symposia presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Industrial Microbiology entitled “Applied Biocatalysis” and “Biotransformation” in Philadelphia, Pa., on 11–

15 August, 2002. It presents a compilation of nine manuscripts representing recent advances in Biocatalysis and Biotransformation for the production of commodity chemicals and pharmaceuticals and for environmental bioremediation.

We are fortunate to have contributions from world-class researchers in the field. We gratefully express our appreciation to the contributing authors, the reviewers who provided excellent comments to the editors and the Editor-in-Chief for making possible the publication of the Special Issue.

We hope this Special Issue will serve as a valuable multi-disciplinary contribution to the continually expanding field of Biocatalysis and Biotransformation.

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