

Foreword

The 1998 National Nutrient Databank Conference was the 22nd such meeting to be held in the United States. It has been an annual conference, with only one missed year since 1976. The 23rd conference will be held on April 16, 1999, in Washington, DC. There is now an international counterpart to this U.S. conference, the International Food Data Conference, the third of which will be held in Rome on July 5-7, 1999.

In order to make the conference more accessible to scientists with an interest in food composition data, the 1998 meeting was held as a satellite to the 1998 Experimental Biology meeting in San Francisco, California. This format offered many advantages, including the elimination of the registration fee. The presentations were condensed into a single day (from the former 2-3 day format), and were supplemented with printed materials covering some of the topics that had, in the past, been oral presentations. Participants appreciated the concentrated focus on "Emerging Issues for the Next Generation of Databases". Based on their feedback, this format will be used for the 1999 conference as well.

The conference was sponsored by four institutions which provided both funds and staff:

- **Department of Nutrition, University of California at Davis**
C **USDA/ARS/Western Human Nutrition Research Center**
C **USDA/ARS/Beltsville Human Nutrition Research Center/Nutrient Data Laboratory**
- **American Society for Nutritional Sciences**

Without their contributions, the conference would not have been possible. We also owe thanks to the **Bestfoods Company** for contributing funds for the refreshments.

The conference is organized by interested volunteers. Our special appreciation goes to the members of the Organizing Committee, who devoted many hours to making the conference a success: **Molly Kretsch**, Program Chair; **Suzanne Murphy**, Arrangements Chair; **Stuart Bresnick**, Conference Coordinator; **David Haytowitz**, Publicity/Web Site; and **Al Riley**, Steering Committee Chair. In addition, the following individuals participated in at least one of the planning meetings and provided valuable advice on ways to ensure that the conference met all its goals: **Barbara Burlingame**, **Catherine Champagne**, **Rena Cutrufelli**, **Sue Gebhart**, **Joanne Holden**, **Loretta Hoover**, **Margaret McDowell**, **Jean Pennington**, **Betty Perloff**, and **Jack Smith**. Finally, we especially thank all the speakers not only for their excellent presentations, but for their willingness to participate without any financial support from the conference for their time or travel expenses.