



Foreword

John Pezzuto

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Foreword

In a supplement that was published by the *International Journal of Pharmacognosy* (currently *Pharmaceutical Biology*) in 1995 (Volume 33), the proceedings of a symposium describing the National Cooperative Drug Discovery Groups (NCDDGs) was presented. Natural products continue to provide a fascinating array of structurally diverse leads for drug development, and the NCDDGs are broadly recognized as the prototype for promoting highly productive and synergistic relationships between the private and public sectors of the scientific community. Over the past several years, primarily evaluating terrestrial and marine organisms, progress has been strong and unabated. Overviews of the NCDDGs were presented in a symposium held at the 44th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Pharmacognosy held in Chapel Hill, North Carolina during

the period of July 12–16, 2003. We are pleased to publish the proceedings of the symposium once again, with Drs. Yali Hallock and Gordon Cragg, both affiliated with the National Cancer Institute, serving as Guest Editors. We also note with deep sadness the loss of two dear colleagues and preeminent natural product scientists: Drs. E. John Faulkner and Monroe E. Wall. Their photographs are featured on the cover of this supplement, and memorials are presented that highlight some of their many accomplishments. With utmost respect, this supplement is dedicated to the memory of these two great men.

John M. Pezzuto
Editor-in-Chief
West Lafayette, Indiana