

Preface

This special issue of *Indian Journal of Biotechnology* comprises the selected peer-reviewed papers presented in the International Conference on Advances in Biotechnology and Bioinformatics 2013 and X Convention of the Biotech Research Society, India organized by the Biotech Research Society, India (www.brsi.in) and Dr D Y Patil Vidyapeeth, Pune, India during November 25 to 27, 2013. The conference was attended by nearly 650 participants from 22 countries. Scientific deliberations were made by 78 eminent scientists and academicians from Americas, UK, Europe, Australia, Africa and Asia. Poster sessions were organized in six theme areas, *viz.*, Microbial & Industrial Biotechnology, Animal & Microbial Biotechnology, Systems Biology & Bioinformatics, Biotechnology Business & IPR, Nano-Biotechnology, and Plant Biotechnology. The conference emphasized the significance of modern biotechnological tools and innovations with, precision and safety for the development of eco-friendly and sustainable bioprocesses and products and their availability at affordable costs for the common population of the country. It also presented the industry perception on Biotechnology and hoped that biotechnological innovations will truly reach the industrial level. In this context, it is hoped that the BRSI would continue to disseminate scientific knowledge to the society through its national and international network.

The articles published in this issue give insight to new technologies, alternative technologies or processes and improved products for meeting increasing demand of energy. There are a total of eleven papers from the conference in this issue, which have been classified in different areas, such as, Environmental Biotechnology, Enzyme Technology, Industrial Biotechnology, Medical Biotechnology, Nano-Biotechnology and Plant Biotechnology.

The Guest Editors thank authors for their contribution and also thank CSIR-NISCAIR, New Delhi for promoting biotechnology through the publication of *Indian Journal of Biotechnology* special issues as this, which genuinely reflect the advancement in biological sciences and engineering providing a common digital platform for scientific exchange. Special thanks are due to Dr MAA Khan, Editor of the journal and Director, CSIR-NISCAIR, New Delhi for providing special volume of the journal to bring out this special issue. Thanks are also due to the reviewers for their efforts in completing the review process in a timely manner.

Dr Neelu Nawani
Professor Ashok Pandey
Professor Emm M Papamichael
Dr K Madhavan Nampoothiri
(Guest Editors)

