

Preface

We would like to present with great pleasure the special issue of *Indian Journal of Biotechnology (IJBT)*, which covers some significant research papers presented during the recently concluded International Conference on Emerging Trends in Biotechnology (ICETB-2014) at New Delhi, India. The conference was organized by the Biotech Research Society, India (www.brsi.in) and School of Environmental Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India along with the Embassy of Italy in New Delhi. The conference was attended by about 800 participants from all over the world who thoroughly discussed the emerging scientific developments and challenges in Biotechnology. The scientific programme of the conference comprised of two mini-symposia on White Biotechnology and Bio-inspired Engineering, three workshops on Environment and Occupational Health, Nanomaterials and Indo-Italian Workshop on Industrial Pharmaceutical Biotechnology, and oral and poster presentations on industrial, environmental, medical and food and agricultural biotechnology, spread in 26 sessions under the themes of Biological Waste Treatment, Bioremediation and Environmental Management, Enzyme Technology, Food and Agricultural Biotechnology, Genomics and Metabolomics, Innovations in Biotechnology, Medical Biotechnology, Microbial Ecology and Diversity, Microbial Products, Plant Biotechnology, Socio-biological Perspectives of Environment, Bioethics and IPR and Climate change: mitigation and adaptation options. Around 125 eminent speakers from 29 countries delivered keynote and invited lectures, apart from 650 posters presentations.

This special issue volume comprises of twelve papers encompassing emerging trends in biotechnology which was the theme of ICETB-2014. Specifically, the presented articles can be categorized into the following groups: Microbiology, Enzyme production, CO₂ sequestration, Biodegradation and Medical biotechnology. These articles provide invaluable insights into various problems, offering convincing solutions and experimental analysis.

The Guest Editors of this special issue are thankful to the Editor of IJBT, Dr MAA Khan and the Director, CSIR-National Institute for Science Communication and Information Resources, New Delhi, India for providing an opportunity to publish selected peer reviewed papers that were presented in the conference. Thanks are also due to the reviewers for their invaluable and critical review comments on manuscripts that were submitted for this special issue.

Professor Indu Shekhar Thakur
(isthakur@mail.jnu.ac.in)

Professor Ashok Pandey
(pandey@niist.res.in)

Professor Guillermo R Castro
(grcastro@gmail.com)

