

FOREWORD BY GUEST EDITORS

This issue of *Archives* is dedicated to the International Symposium “Power of Fungi and Mycotoxins in Health and Disease” held in Primošten, Croatia on 19-22 October 2011. The meeting was organised by the Croatian Microbiological Society. This is the third Symposium about fungi and mycotoxins that was organised in Croatia. The previous two were national symposia with international participation, both organised as one-day meetings in Zagreb in 2004 and 2008. Reports from the second Symposium “Fungi and Mycotoxins: Health Aspects and Prevention” were also published in a thematic issue of *Archives*, suggesting that this could become a tradition.

There are several important reasons why we organised this meeting. The first is a great interest expressed at earlier symposia, as there are not many similar meetings in the region. Taking into account that humans and animals are permanently exposed to mycotoxins through the food chain, research in mycology and mycotoxicology is very important for public health safety. Contamination with mycotoxins occurs in several food production phases including vegetation, crop harvest, transport, and storage, causing not only economic losses in food production but also a variety of pathological changes in humans and animals. Mycotoxins causing chronic diseases and possibly cancer usually remain unrecognised as such. Therefore, discoveries in fungal biology, mycotoxin monitoring and study of their mechanism of action and interactions, and design of new fungicides and antifungal drugs are essential in the prevention and therapy of fungi-related diseases. These topics were discussed at the Symposium through five sections on fungal diseases in humans, animals and plants, antifungal therapy, mycotoxins, and mycotoxicoses.

This issue of *Archives* brings 13 articles that were presented at the Symposium and two additional topic-related articles. Four original research papers are based on recent studies on exposure to ochratoxin A, citrinin, and *Fusarium* mycotoxins (zearalenone, fumonisins, beauvericin, moniliformin). Two articles address possible application of *Geotrichum candidum* and essential oil of wild thyme (*Thymus serpyllum* L.) as biocontrol agents of T-2 toxin; the first in beer production and the second against some mycotoxin-producing mould species. Three articles address fungal diseases of grapevine, apples, and mushrooms. One article is based on current research on susceptibility of biofilm and dispersal cells of *Candida albicans* to antimycotics and the role of gene *Als1* and *Als3* expression in biofilm and dispersal cells. One paper brings two interesting case studies on opportunistic fungal infections of the central nervous system. Four review papers address the impact of mycotoxicoses on human history, combined effects of mycotoxins *in vivo* and *in vitro*, neurotoxic potential of fumonisin B₁, and health effects of indoor moulds.

We owe our thanks to all participants of the “Power of Fungi and Mycotoxins in Health and Disease”, especially to the authors who contributed to this issue of *Archives*. We also wish to thank our peer reviewers for their valuable help. And finally, our sincere thanks goes to the Editorial Board of *Archives of Industrial Hygiene and Toxicology* for giving the Symposium participants the opportunity to publish their results and reviews in this respectable journal. We hope that this tradition will continue with the next “Power of Fungi and Mycotoxins”.

Maja Šegvić Klarić and Maja Peraica
Guest editors