

FOREWORD TO THE IHC SECTION

Important challenges have recently been posed to the beekeeping sector and bee product marketing. This has attracted the public's attention and set significant tasks for scholars and researchers working with the diverse properties of beehive products as well as with their quality and safety. Research in the field has become dynamic and ever more pronounced by modern insights into environmental impacts on humans as well as those of humans on the environment. Prompted by these concerns, the *International Symposium on Bee Products, 3rd Edition, Annual meeting of the International Honey Commission (IHC)*, held in Opatija (Croatia) from 28 September to 1 October 2014, acted as a platform to launch related issues into a more international setting. Previous IHC activities and efforts of the organizers paved the way for it to become an event of first class significance for promoting scientific and professional achievements in the field of beehive products. The *IHC 2014* therefore served as a good platform for presenting the most recent scientific achievements at an international level as well as for highlighting the importance of research, control, and analytical and professional approaches to the subject. Upon presentations given during the scientific and technical program, which were of the outmost interest for

the quality and characterisation of beehive products during the *IHC 2014 Symposium*, the attending authors were kindly invited by the Editorial Board of the *Archives of Industrial Hygiene and Toxicology* to submit full papers for a themed issue. After a strict peer-review process, this issue has finally come to see daylight bringing to life several articles that evolved from lectures presented at the Symposium. On behalf of the journal Editors, I want to express my gratitude to all of the authors who submitted their manuscripts for consideration. Likewise, our deepest thank you goes out to Gudrun Beckh, IHC President, as well as to the Symposium's Scientific Committee and President Gian Luigi Marcazzan. My personal and particular gratitude goes to Nevenka Kopjar and Irena Brčić Karačonji, the hardworking "honeybees" from the *Archives of Industrial Hygiene and Toxicology*, for their persistence in linking the *IHC 2014 Symposium* to this journal, along with their valuable involvement in editing the submitted papers.

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