

EDITORIAL

Dear Reader,

The present issue of Journal of Food and Nutrition Research comprises some contributions from the final meeting of COST 927 Action which was held in Smolenice, Slovakia in October 2008. The Slovak Republic as a member of the mentioned action represented by Dr. Katarína Šebeková (Slovak Medical University, Bratislava) and Dr. Zuzana Ciesarová (VÚP Food Research Institute, Bratislava) was entrusted to organize this meeting which concluded 5-year activities in the frame of European Cooperation in the field of Scientific and Technical Research (COST).

The European COST Action framework was founded by the EC in 1971, encouraging the co-ordination of nationally funded research at the European level. Although research activities are not directly funded by the COST programme, it can endorse research projects by stating their scientific excellence and international relevance. COST Action supports coordination activities (management committee meetings, expert meetings, travel, etc.) and short-term scientific missions (STSM) among laboratories. These missions are intended for young researchers to exchange technologies and spread the knowledge.

The present COST Action 927, entitled "Thermally processed foods: possible health implications", started in April 2004 and will last until April 2009. It is chaired by Professor Vincenzo Fogliano from the University of Naples Federico II, Italy. So far, twenty-seven European countries have joined this Action and the initiatives are reported regularly on the web site at <http://www.if.csic.es/proyectos/cost927>.

The main objective of this COST Action is to improve the nutritional quality and safety of heat-processed foods, taking into consideration also the consumer's needs and preferences. Therefore, gaining basic knowledge about the formation of compounds which are beneficial or harmful to health and which are formed during heat treatment of various foods is one of the key tasks for COST 927.

The scientific activities carried out in the frame of this COST Action are divided into the following five working groups (WG), each one of which is chaired by a European expert in the respective field:

- WG 1 Analytical methods, formation pathways and EU regulation
(WG leader: Dr. Francisco J. Morales, Instituto del Frío, Madrid, Spain)
- WG 2 Biological methods, risk assessment, consumer perception
(WG leader: Dr. Simonetta Salvini, Cancer Research and Prevention Center – Scientific Institute of Tuscany, Florence, Italy)
- WG 3 Process optimisation and new development
(WG leader: Dr. Eyal Shimoni, Technion – Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa, Israel)
- WG 4 Absorption and physiological effects
(WG leader: Prof. Dr. Karl-Heinz Wagner, University of Vienna, Austria)
- WG 5 In vitro transformations and maintaining health
(WG leader: Dr. Katarína Šebeková, Slovak Medical University, Institute of Preventive and Clinical Medicine, Bratislava, Slovakia)

The Management Committee of COST Action 927 decided to publish these scientific contributions in this peer-reviewed journal to improve the dissemination of the results presented at the Action meeting. That is the reason why you can meet this extraordinary opportunity to have in your hands specially arranged issue related to this valuable international activity.

Zuzana Ciesarová
Representative of the Slovak Republic in COST Action 927

Peter Šimko
Editor-in-Chief