

From the Editor-in-Chief

On September 23–27, 2007, the Fourth International Medicinal Mushroom Conference was held in Ljubljana, Slovenia. Three hundred scientists from 46 countries, from all continents, presented their results in abstracts published in this special issue of the IJMM. About 800 scientists are the authors of these published abstracts.

The conference plenary lectures, parallel sessions, and poster presentations covered a wide array of topics including systematics, taxonomy, distribution, ecology, fungal culture collections, medicinal value, and pharmacology of mushroom active compounds, mushroom nutraceuticals, fungal physiology, biochemistry and genetics, mycotechnology and cultivation, mycoremediation, ethnomycology, folk medicine, and homeopathy using medicinal mushrooms. Special scientific topics were dedicated to species of the genera *Cordyceps*, *Canoderma*, *Grifola*, *Phellinus*, *Pleurotus*, and *Trametes*. Among the participants, you will recognize the names of many well known experts in culinary-medicinal mushrooms.

The conference was organized by University of Ljubljana and Slovenian Association of Mushroom Cultivation. The sponsors of the conference were Fungi Perfecti (USA), Perutnina Ptuj d.d. (Slovenia), Slovenian Research Agency, and International Society of Mushroom Science.

I would like to thank all organizers of this very important meeting, including the participants who presented lectures, oral presentations, posters, and abstracts, and to the sponsors (to whom we are extremely grateful, because without their support this conference could not have been held).

The Fifth International Medicinal Mushroom Conference will be held August 2–7, 2009, in Chang-Chun city in P.R. China. The Chinese Mycology Society (President Professor Yu Li) will be the main organizer of the conference. China Chamber of Commerce of Import and Export of Foodstuffs, Native Produce & Animal By-Products (CFNA), China Edible Fungi Association (CEFA), and Jiangsu Anhui Bio-tech Co., Ltd. will be the main supporters and sponsors for this conference.