

## LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHER

This Special Issue (Vol. 11, No. 3) of the *Journal of Food Safety*, which is edited by Daniel Y.C. Fung, Ph.D., Professor, Kansas State University, Department of Animal Sciences and Industry, Manhattan, Kansas 66506-1600, is devoted entirely to Rapid Methods and Automation in Microbiology.

A major reason for a special issue is to make available to our subscribers and readers important and current papers in the fast-developing area of rapid methods in microbiology.

Professor Fung is well-qualified to be the special editor of this issue as he is one of the pioneers in the field. In his laboratory, Prof. Fung has specialized in rapid methods research, held workshops, written many papers and edited one book on the subject.

This Special Issue is being published with the full cooperation and approval of Professor Thomas J. Montville and Dr. Arthur J. Miller, editors of the *Journal of Food Safety*. There will be one more special issue on rapid methods in microbiology which will follow the next regular issue of the *Journal of Food Safety*.

We would appreciate receiving any comments or suggestions on this Special Issue.

JOHN J. O'NEIL  
Publisher

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR OF THE SPECIAL ISSUE ON RAPID METHODS AND AUTOMATION IN MICROBIOLOGY

The field of rapid methods and automation in microbiology had its identifiable start in 1973 when the first international symposium was held in Stockholm. Since that time, symposia of this series have been held in Cambridge (1976), Washington, D.C. (1981), Berlin (1984), Florence (1987), and Helsinki (1990). The seventh one will be held in London (1993). Although the proceedings of these meetings were published in book form, the information is usually delayed due to publication time frame, and also there is the disadvantage of limited circulation.

Rapid methods and automation in microbiology are involved with any area of rapid isolation, detection, enumeration, and identification of microorganisms by microbiological, chemical, biochemical, biophysical, immunological and serological methods in food, water, industrial, and environmental samples.

There is a need to disseminate information concerning methodologies related to microbiology more quickly than is now being done. A major purpose of this Special Issue is to provide a forum for microbiologists to publish quickly the methods they developed, so that others can evaluate and use these procedures. In this way, the field of rapid methods in microbiology can advance even faster to help solve needs in applied microbiology.

The editor hopes that this Special Issue and a later one will generate sufficient interest and be so well-received that eventually a new *Journal of Rapid Methods and Automation in Microbiology* will emerge.

DANIEL Y.C. FUNG, Professor  
Special Issue Editor  
Kansas State University  
Manhattan, Kansas