Editor's Note

The 10th World Congress on Clinical Nutrition (10th WCCN) held in Phuket, Thailand between November 30 and December 3, 2004 was a great success. There were 336 delegates and companions from 18 countries around the world attending the plenary sessions, symposia and poster presentations during which a total of 187 scientific papers were presented. The theme of the Congress was "Nutrition in the Next Decade: Nutraceutical/Functional Food; Product performance in Health, Disease and Safety". The presentations cover various aspects of nutraceuticals and functional foods from plant and animal sources, including chemical, processing and clinical aspects of the products. Some 30 manuscripts were submitted for publication in the Proceedings and after a rigorous review by our local and international reviewers 21 have been accepted.

The Editorial Board of Songklanakarin Journal of Science and Technology, Prince of Songkla University, kindly offered to publish the Proceedings at its own cost as a Supplementary Issue, and for this the organizers of the 10th WCCN are most grateful. We are also deeply indebted to our local and international colleagues who generously agreed to serve as reviewers and made many valuable comments and suggestions for the revision of the manuscripts. Their efforts have certainly helped to maintain the high standard of the Journal. My editorial team members, Dr. Arunporn Itharat and Dr. Aran H-Kittikun, were exemplary in their devotion to rereading many of the reviewed manuscripts and in making additional suggestions for revision. I would like also to acknowledge the very efficient assistance of my Secretary, Mrs. Jureerat Thongruang, who spent countless hours organizing the manuscripts and corresponding with the authors. Last, but not least, the Journal's Editorial Manager, Mr. Nirun Sumalee and his assistants, have been nothing less than professional in their preparation of the manuscripts for publication.

Nutraceutical and functional food and clinical nutrition are multidisciplinary fields of study, which are becoming increasingly important in solving the healthcare dilemma that we are in. The connection between diet, health and disease is undeniable, but the use of natural products and herbs and spices to protect us from ailments and to help maintain our well-being has only been recently rediscovered. Scientists, nutritionists and healthcare professionals have finally found a common ground to work together to provide scientific data to help the consumers make informed choices when buying health-related products. Hopefully, the papers published in the Proceedings will contribute significantly toward that goal.

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Editor, Supplementary Issue
Vol. 28 (Suppl. 1) 2006: Nutraceutical and Functional Food