



Preface

China has a long history of chemistry-related research, such as the invention of gunpowder and traditional Chinese medicine. Today, research and development in chemical technology and biotechnology is highly associated with the country's economic development. China has been playing a key role in the chemical industry in previous decades; therefore, it is of great interest to the worldwide research community to have an insight into Chinese scientists and their current progress in chemical technology and biotechnology.

To satisfy such interest, the Society of Chemical Industry (SCI), particularly the SCI-Chinese UK Section (SCI-CS) and the Chinese Society of Chemical Science and Technology-UK (CSCST-UK), organised this special China issue of *Journal of Chemical Technology and Biotechnology* (JCTB). This initiative received a very good response from the researchers of various fields in Chinese universities and research institutions. However, limited available space means this special issue can only serve as a snapshot of the research activities of the Chinese chemical technology and biotechnology community.

SCI-CS, which was established in 1992, and CSCST-UK, an academic organisation for overseas Chinese chemists and chemical engineers, have been trying to bridge the gap between the universities,

research institutions and the chemical industry in China and the worldwide community. The publication of this special issue is a good example of what can be achieved. We hope that this venture will accelerate deeper exchange between the research community in China and their worldwide counterparts. In the meantime, we believe that the Chinese chemists and chemical engineers will make a great contribution to the development of SCI in China.

We are grateful to those who contributed their latest research work to this issue and for the support from the former General Secretary of SCI, Mr Richard Denyer, the Editors of JCTB, Prof. Michael Cox and Dr Peter Hambleton and the Senior Editorial Assistant, Ms Kate Wilson. Thanks also go to Drs. Tiancun Xiao, Liming Ying, Jun Wang, Hu Zhang and the committees of SCI-CS and CSCST for pushing forward and realising this special issue.

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