

Preface

This publication is based on the second workshop conducted by the Scientific Group on Methodologies for the Safety Evaluation of Chemicals (SGOMSEC), in Rome from 12 to 16 July 1982, in the Istituto Superiore di Sanità. We are grateful to Dr Francesco Pocchiari, Director of the Institute, who generously put at the disposal of SGOMSEC all facilities required for the meeting.

SGOMSEC is sponsored by the World Health Organization (WHO) through the International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS), which is a joint activity of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the World Health Organization (WHO); the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE) of the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The objective of SGOMSEC is to undertake in-depth reviews of methods for the safety evaluation of chemicals, particularly those that are in the process of development and not yet routinely employed. The first workshop, SGOMSEC 1, dealt with methods for assessing the effects of chemicals on the reproductive function in humans and in non-human biota. The report of this study, *Methods for Assessing the Effects of Chemicals on Reproductive Functions*, John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 1983 (SCOPE 20, SGOMSEC 1, IPCS Scientific Symposium Series No. 1), is now available.

The project reported in this publication deals with three interrelated subjects: (1) methods for estimating exposure to chemicals (workgroup chairman Dr. Gordon Butler, National Research Council of Canada); (2) methods for estimation of risk associated with exposure to chemicals (workgroup chairman Dr. David Hoel, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), United States of America) and (3) approaches to measuring chemical injury in non-human biota and ecosystems (workgroup chairman Dr. David Peakall, National Wildlife Research Centre, Environment Canada).

This monograph consists of two separate parts: a Joint Report and 28 contributed papers prepared by experts in their respective fields; these were circulated to the participants before the Workshop was held. At the Workshop, most of the time was spent in preparing the Joint Report in accordance with an agreed outline which synthesizes the discussion at the Workshop and the issues covered in the individual papers; it also evaluates the state of the art in these areas and makes recommendations for improvement of methods where required.

Attending were some 15 guests and observers (see list of participants, pages

xxv–xxix) who, in almost all cases, were active participants in the preparation of the Joint Report which was drafted in substance and rough detail in Rome. Subsequently, there was a major revision of the Joint Report by the overall co-chairmen of the Workshop, by the chairmen of the workgroups, and by the SGOMSEC Editor, Dr Velimir Vouk.

We believe the Joint Report and the papers contained in this volume represent the best current thinking in the fields covered by this study and will, we trust, contribute to the advancement of methods in these areas.

Dr Patrick Sheehan was, as in the first Workshop, of invaluable assistance in organizing the conference in Rome. Also meriting warm thanks for their contribution to the smooth running of the Workshop are Dr Angela Battistini of Dr Pocchiari's staff, Ms Jackie Prince of the National Academy of Sciences, National Research Council, and Miss Herawasih Sumohandoyo of the IPCS staff in Geneva. Thanks for assistance in editing are due to Ms Janet Guthrie, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), and for the organization of the material and typing of the manuscripts to Ms Joyce McManus, Institute of Environmental Medicine, New York University Medical Center, New York, and Mrs Judith H. Edmonds, Mrs Kay S. Moore and Ms Tracy L. Bryson, Office of Health Hazard Assessment, NIEHS. Our thanks are due to the Commission of the European Communities and Dr Miki Goto of Japan for financial support, to SCOPE for financial support and continued encouragement, and to the International Programme on Chemical Safety for warm encouragement and financial aid, as well as to the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, one of the IPCS national lead institutions, which assisted the project in numerous ways.

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