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PREFACE

Current environmental management policies aim to achieve a harmonious balance between the development of economic resources and the preservation of the environment. The objective is to reach sustainability while improving the health, safety and prosperity of the population. This approach involves taking acceptable risks in terms of the environment, human health and the economy. It is by definition an interdisciplinary activity that requires close cooperation between several scientific and engineering fields.

This book contains most of the papers presented at the 1st International Conference on Environmental Exposure and Health. The aim of the meeting was to bring health specialists and scientists, social and physical scientists and engineers together in order to evaluate current issues in environmental exposure and health and chart future directions and needs in the field. Judging from the level of response received, it is clear that many scientists specializing in diverse fields of exposure and health analysis also share the vision of establishing a more substantive dialog between the fields of health sciences and engineering sciences. Our intention is to proceed forward from this starting point and continue our efforts to deepen this dialog. The conference provides the proper environment for communication among scientists and engineers to achieve a better understanding of the problem, define common ground and find a common language. The ultimate goal is to find ways of reaching a sustainable and healthy world population.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who contributed to this effort. In particular the contributions of the International Scientific Advisory Committee members is gratefully acknowledged. But most importantly, we would like to thank Ms. Katie Banham, the Conference Secretary, who was the driving force behind this effort and the person who kept the organizational aspects on track.

The Editors
Atlanta, 2005

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