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# **Environmental Toxicology III**

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## **Preface**

The efforts of modern societies to design and manufacture goods that make human lives easier and more comfortable have produced a story of success in terms of offering constant improvements to our lifestyle. There is another side to this story, and that is the one which reports increased risks to human health and environment due to presence of various harmful substances in the environment. It is questionable whether there is any part of the environment that has been left unchanged and unaffected due to these activities. In many cases close to the human settlements the risks to health increase due to various stressors. Yet, many of us have to accept living cities with the commodities that they offer and the health risks that they create.

Environmental toxicology is an interdisciplinary science which integrates biology, microbiology, chemistry, engineering, environmental sciences, ecology and other sciences. Assessment of the environmental effects of chemicals is complicated as it depends on the organisms tested and involves not only the toxicity of individual chemicals, but also their interactive effects, genotoxicity, mutagenicity and immunotoxicity testing. Various stressors affect the environment sometimes showing synergistic effects which are very difficult to quantify or predict. These threats require more experimental and theoretical developments in order to produce approaches for characterization and appropriate strategies and assays for screening in order to detect the harmful agents and prevent them from reaching sensitive endpoints.

The Environmental Toxicology Conference created an atmosphere which encouraged fruitful interactions and exchange of knowledge and ideas amongst the participants working in industry and government and those employed at universities and research organizations.

This volume contains the edited contributions presented at the third Conference on Environmental Toxicology, which was held in Cyprus in 2010. The conference was organized by the Wessex Institute of Technology. It was sponsored by WIT Transactions on Ecology and the Environment and The International Journal of Sustainable Development and Planning. The first Conference took place in Myconos Island, Greece in 2006 and the second one was held in Granada, Spain in 2008.

The editors would like to thank all the authors for their papers and, in particular, the members of the International Scientific Advisory Committee for their help during the review process.

The Editors, Cyprus, 2010

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