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International Symposium on Environmental Biotechnology

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The third International Symposium of the International Society for Environmental Biotechnology entitled *Global Environmental Biotechnology Approaching The Year 2000* was held at Northeastern University, Boston, MA USA on July 15 – July 20, 1996.

This meeting included technical presentations of state-of-the-art research which were integrated with tutorials and workshops by practicing technologies in the broad field of environmental biotechnology. This meeting was designed to be, in every respect, truly global. Over 150 excellent abstracts from around the world were accepted. For example, presentations were heard from technical workers in Southeast Asia, Russia, China, Europe, North Africa, India, and the United States. By having these selected presenters, as well as identified experienced tutors with focused workshops, all participants benefited from this interactive symposium. A number of social events further promoted informal exchange of ideas, discussions of technical problems, and exploration of new applications.

This international symposium on environmental biotechnology was on the campus of Northeastern University but all Boston area universities were included and participated using designed conference Co-Chairs. This symposium, with an attendance of several hundred people, was considered a major success. Workers with experience in one area of environmental biotechnology learned from the wealth of established backgrounds of those in other areas of environmental biotechnology. To formally disseminate conference results, it was pre-arranged that all technical presentations were reviewed for formal publications.

Environmental biotechnology is an emerging field of scientific and technological investigations that is truly global. People around the world are now joined together by a common technical bond. Furthermore, popular recognition is high for the environmental problems being faced and solve by biotechnology methods. With a feeling of ‘winning’, but with recognizing there is much work to be done, workers with in-depth experience in solving one problem in environmental biotechnology learned from the background of other workers how they, too, are addressing and solving environmental problems. In every respect, support for this highly focused global symposium was merited.

As with all meetings of the International Society for Environmental Biotechnology, papers were invited especially for the following sessions: (i) Metals: Mine Drainage, Removal, Toxicity; (ii) Waste Treatment/Monitoring; (iii) Integrated Systems; (iv) Bioremediation: Insitu/Rectors/Basic Studies; (v) Water Quality; (vi) Biodegradation; (vii) Local/ National/International Issues.

**Symposium Chair:**

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Co-Chairs:

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*Boston University*
Theodore C. Crusberg  
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About the editor and symposium chair

Donald L. Wise, Ph.D. is a specialist in biotechnology, including advanced biomaterials development and bioconversion process development. Dr. Wise is the Cabot Professor of Chemical Engineering, Emeritus at Northeastern University. Dr. Wise is also founder and President of Cambridge Scientific, Inc. Dr. Wise was Vice President of Dynatech R/D Company, Cambridge, Massachusetts, and Manager of Biotechnology. Dr. Wise received his B.S (magna cum laude), M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in chemical engineering at the University of Pittsburgh. During the 1993-1994 academic year, Professor Wise was on sabbatical from Northeastern University as a Fulbright Scholar at the Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, Thailand, where he held the John F. Kennedy Chair in New Technologies. While an Associate Professor of Engineering at (now) Widener University in Chester, Pennsylvania, Dr. Wise carried out research as Principal Investigator of the National Institute of Health. Dr. Wise was an NIH Special Research Fellow at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Biochemical Engineering. Part of his work there concerned diffusion studies in microbial systems. Dr. Wise received a Corporate Appointment to Harvard University as a Research Fellow in the Division of Engineering and Applied Physics. Dr. Wise has developed a unique career in biotechnology. This work has been in both biomaterials and bioconversion, including specialized work on enzyme stabilization. Dr. Wise has also been involved in many international projects for WHO, AID and the UN. Dr. Wise served as the President, International Society for Environmental Biotechnology, 1996-1998 and is a Fellow of this International Organization.

Distribution and Scientific Publications from Symposium:

