

Preface

Three years after the publication of the first edition of *Chemistry and Biochemistry of Food*, this second edition comes to light. I have updated some of the contents and introduced new ones, as well as checked figures and tables and corrected some minor mistakes. The new contents are basically related to biochemical and physiological aspects of foods and nutrition. There is a reason for this: although I graduated in Chemistry many years ago, Biochemistry (that is, the chemical processes that occur within living beings) always exerted a special fascination on me. For this reason I decided to dedicate my scientific career to this scientific discipline. Today, I can say that I made the right decision, as I have thoroughly enjoyed Biochemistry for nearly 40 years. Moreover, the continuous advances in the field make it even more fascinating with each passing day.

Several things have changed in my professional life since 2020; thus, after more than 20 years teaching the subject “Chemistry and biochemistry of food” at the Faculty of Chemistry of the University of Sevilla, I decided to allow younger professors to take over the wonderful task of introducing the molecular bases of nutrition to the students. I have also changed my research line and, after several decades studying the molecular aspects of proton translocation across biological membranes, I decided to join a research group involved in the study of the evolution of photoperiodic signaling and how it affects plant development. This has been a real challenge that has allowed me to enter the amazing world of intrinsically disordered proteins (IDPs). In any case, my interest in every aspect of food (bio)chemistry is as strong as ever.

Obviously, a number of people must be thanked for their contribution to this second edition of *Chemistry and Biochemistry of Food*: first of all, my wife, Isabel, and my two sons, Manuel and Santiago, who have supported and encouraged me throughout the whole process of elaborating both editions of the book. This has been extremely important to me and I deeply appreciate it.

I want to reiterate my acknowledgement to the colleagues that have contributed again to the book by writing several chapters: Dr. José María Vega Piqueres, Emeritus Professor of Biochemistry at the University of Sevilla; Dr. Javier Vigara Fernández, Associate Professor of Biochemistry at the University of Huelva; Dr. María Montaña Durán-Barrantes, Associate Professor of Chemical Engineering at the University of Sevilla; and Dr. Victoria Valls-Bellés, Associate Professor of Physiology at the University Jaume I of Castellón de la Plana.

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This book is also dedicated to the students who have attended my lectures during all these years and to those who have had their Final Years' Projects, Master and/or Doctoral Theses supervised by me. I have always thought that you learn while you teach.

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