

## **Preface**

This publication has arisen from a very successful international conference. The aim of the meeting was to present and analyse the evaluation of novel techniques to detect harmful chemicals and microbial pathogens in foods and waters. The various chapters concentrate on the specific topic areas of water microbiology, water chemistry, food microbiology and food chemistry. These four areas have both common and unique difficulties to overcome. In general the test systems under development and those being validated have to contend with pollutants at very low concentrations in large sample volumes and a wide range of sample matrices. This publication therefore represents the state of the art in highly sensitive chemical and biological detection systems for substances destined for the consumer. The techniques employed range from highly efficient concentration and sample preparation methods, through cell culture to end detection by a wide range of techniques. These end detection methods include microscopy, biosensors, colorimetry, immunoassay, molecular detection and molecular identification.

