

Functional foods. Reflexions of a scientist regarding a market in expansion

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Abstract

In 2006, the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) decided to promote the study of Nutraceuticals in Latin America as a scientific opportunity of commercial interest for the entire community. This initiative, promoted by the IUPAC Subcommittee on Medicinal Chemistry and Drug Development, chaired by C.R. Ganellin, resulted in Latin American researchers uniting efforts to successfully carry out this study. This project consists of a general presentation of the topic of this study which will be followed by the publication of specific situations in different Latin American countries. The work is easily accessible as it is presented simultaneously in different scientific journals. This permits readers throughout the world to enter into discussion regarding the topic published, creating a climate of interest based on research of traditional knowledge and scientific experience which permit innovation to the benefit of all, especially the nutraceutical producer societies and those who are in need of the compounds.