

## FORWARD

The National Nutrient Databank Conference has been held annually for the past 14 years. It is organized by a group of interested volunteers who give generously of their time. A steering committee and four working committees carry on the functions of organizing the conference and communicating conference activities. Interested persons are invited to volunteer for committee assignment at each conference. Committee membership and volunteer activity is sought rather than dues. The 1989 Committees and their chairs were: Steering Committee, Al Riley, Campbell Soup Company; Program Committee, Linda Posati, USDA- FIAD; Communications Committee, Betty Perloff, USDA-HNIS; Database Committee, Linda Hicks, University of Texas; and Local Arrangements Committee, Phyllis Stumbo, University of Iowa.

Proceedings are published following most of the conferences, and some are still available for purchase. A listing of proceedings publishers is given in the back of this issue. From the list of proceedings you can see that the conference has been hosted on both coasts and at several midwestern and southern locations. The conference has been sponsored by professional organizations, government agencies, and industry. The U.S. Department of Agriculture maintains the National Nutrient Databank for the United States and is a major sponsor of this conference. Industry sponsors have included a host of food and food supplement manufacturers and more recently software companies.

On behalf of the steering committee we wish to express our sincere thanks to the United States Department of Agriculture and the various industries for their generous financial support of this conference. Without their cooperation, it would not be possible to communicate the information assembled in these proceedings.

Special recognition goes to Bob Rizek, Director of the Human Nutrition Information Service, United States Department of Agriculture, for fostering growth of this conference. Dr. Rizek has guided conference planners, encouraged his staff to participate, and approved USDA financial support. Updates from USDA continues to be one of the most worthwhile aspects of the conference.

The 1990 CONFERENCE will be held in Blacksburg, Virginia on June 4-6, 1990. Information about this conference is available from Jane Wentworth, Dept. of Human Nutrition and Foods, (703) 231-6943 or Kent Stewart, Dept. Biochemistry and Nutrition, (703) 231-7986. Address for both is: Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA 24061.