

Bioencapsulation Research GROUP and its Activities

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EDITORIAL

BIOENCAPSULATION RESEARCH GROUP AND ITS ACTIVITIES

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Bioencapsulation Research Group is a multidisciplinary grouping of laboratories and industries working actively on microencapsulation for applications in Biotechnology, Food Science and Medicine. By bioencapsulation, one must understand immobilization of biomaterials in spherical membranes or gel beads.

Bioencapsulation has been recognized these last years as an important and specific field of research in biotechnology. Two journal (*Journal of Microencapsulation* and *Biomaterials, Artificial Cells and Immobilization Biotechnology*), one biannual international congress (*International Symposium on Microencapsulation*) and an International society (*International Society for Artificial Cells and Immobilization Biotechnology*) is devoted specifically to the microencapsulation.

Bioencapsulation Research Group was created in 1989. It counts now more than one hundred members, coming from twenty countries with 25 % of industries. **Bioencapsulation Research Group** has first objective of improving performance and efficiency of the research by sharing expertise, manpower and material resources. **Bioencapsulation Research Group** support organization of sessions on microencapsulation inside scientific conferences and handle its own workshop. As a well organized group, **Bioencapsulation Research Group** enhances interest of industrial and outstanding student for the microencapsulation. **Bioencapsulation Research Group** encourages involvement of young researchers in exchange and collaboration at international levels.

In March, 1991, **Bioencapsulation Research Group** has organized its first meeting on theme *Encapsulation, a key to Biotechnology*. The second **B.R.G. Workshop** (*Bioencapsulation, a key to the bioindustries*) was taking place into the *Ecole Normale Supérieure de Cachan*, near to Paris, in April, 1992. As shown by the meeting title, the objective was to involve more the industries in the group. The present issue of *Biomaterials, Artificial Cells and Immobilization Biotechnology* contains number of the papers presented during the workshop. It demonstrates the importance and the diversity of the subject covered by the bioencapsulation field. Some papers dealing with work already submitted for publication, the abstracts are included at the end of the volume. Please contact the authors to get complement of information.