Editorial

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Biographical notes: Nevenka Kožuh Eržen got her PhD in Chemistry in 1996 at University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Chemistry and Chemical Technology. Currently, she is working as a full time researcher at University of Ljubljana, Veterinary Faculty. Her research work is linked with the study of influences of various chemical substances on the environment and living organisms. She initiated studies related to the fate of veterinary medicines in the environment, especially avermectins, since they are frequently used in veterinary medicine as antiparasitic drugs. By now she has more than 20 scientific publications; which includes also citations.

One can say that ecotoxicology is a subarea of environmental toxicology. It is the science of toxicants (e.g., organic and inorganic chemicals, drug residues, toxins and other pollutants) in the environment and how they affect living organisms including interactions between living organisms and the environment. Ecotoxicology is becoming the most challenging part of environmental toxicology studying potential or actual adverse effects on health of organisms from primary producers to zooplankton, invertebrates, fishes, birds, reptiles, mammals and other species. The goal of ecotoxicologists is to provide and interpret data for the environmental risk assessment. To study the ecotoxicity and behaviour of pollutants in the environment, fast and reliable analytical methods have to be developed. Chemists play an important role in environmental research studies and also in developing more efficient, economical and safe production of food and animal feed.

It is very important, especially for the consumers, to ensure good quality of food and food safety. New technologies in food and animal feed production, evaluation and monitoring of feed and food quality and assurance of food safety have an important role in animal and human health.

In this special issue of the *International Journal of Environment and Pollution* you can find some original research papers in the field of ecotoxicology, environmental chemistry and food safety. They are focused on following topics:

- toxicity and ecotoxicity of environmental toxicants for aquatic organisms
- degradation of environmental pollutants (biodegradaton, photodegradation)
- biomarkers and bioidicators of toxicity
- detection of biological contaminants in the environment

- new computer approaches for evaluation of environmental pollution and environmental risk of chemicals
- development, validation and employing relevant, sensitive and selective analytical methods for determination and monitoring of food and environmental contaminants
- research studies related to food quality and safety.

In the end, as a guest editor for the special issue 'Ecotoxicology, Environmental Chemistry and Food Safety', I would like to thank the editor in chief of the *International Journal of Environment and Pollution* Professor Mohammed Dorgham for his invitation. I would also like to thank to all authors for their contribution and an interest to publish their research work in this special issue. Special thanks to all reviewers for their prompt and critical reviews.

It was my pleasure to serve as a guest editor and to work with all contributors involved in editing of the special issue of the *International Journal of Environment and Pollution* – 'Ecotoxicology, Environmental Chemistry and Food Safety'.