

Preface

The Second Symposium on Assessing and Managing Health Risks from Drinking Water Contamination: Approaches and Applications, was held at the University of Chile in Santiago, 7–10 September 1998. The symposium, which was jointly sponsored by the International Commissions on Groundwater and Water Quality of the International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS), the University of Chile, and the US Geological Survey, was the third in a series of IAHS activities addressing health risks of drinking water (Reichard *et al.*, 1990; Reichard & Zapponi, 1995). The goal of the Santiago meeting, like that of the first symposium held in Rome in 1994, was to bring together specialists from a variety of disciplines (including health and hydrological sciences) to gather and exchange information on drinking water risk assessment and management in both developed and developing countries. The Santiago meeting had a special focus on arsenic in drinking water, a topic of great importance in Chile, as well as in other parts of the world.

This proceedings volume is divided into six sections:

- Arsenic in drinking water
- Microbial contamination of drinking water
- Chemical contamination of drinking water
- Exposure assessment for drinking water
- Epidemiology of drinking water contamination
- Policy analysis and risk management of drinking water contamination

Each section contains both full-length papers and abstracts. As a whole, the papers and abstracts provide a unique interdisciplinary, international overview of current issues in drinking water risk assessment and management.

The lead organizer of the symposium was Ana Maria Sancha. The symposium organizers express thanks to the administration, faculty, and staff of the University of Chile for serving as wonderful hosts for the symposium. The generous financial support of the US Geological Survey (with special thanks to John Klein and Rick Heimes), the US Environmental Protection Agency (Fred Hauchman), the National Water Research Institute (Ronald Linsky), and UNICEF (Gourisankar Ghosh) is gratefully recognized. The organizers also thank Ernesto Brown, Maria Liusa Castro, Sharon Clark, German Corey, Steven Gorelick, Ronald Harvey, Bilqis Hoque, Kenneth Cantor, Norman Peters, Robert Raucher, Pablo Schiffini, Jerzy Sokal, Jerrald Woodcox, and Giovanni Zapponi.

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