Scientific Publication Quality Assurance And Research

professional-standard-review organizations (PSRO) in defining quality of care for the Medicare program; it is a “shared responsibility of health professionals and government to provide a reasonable basis for confidence that action will be taken, both to assess whether services meet professionally recognized standards and to correct any deficiencies that may be found” (p. 14). Similar pronouncements have been made for the quality assurance activities of the Department of Defense's CHAMPUS program and of the 1980s successor to the PSROs, the federally designated peer-review organizations (PROs), established to ensure quality and utilization-efficient care for Medicare. Links between the federal and state government and between professional associations and private review entities have been developed to make this “shared responsibility” manifest in the delivery and reimbursement of health services. This responsibility is seen in light of both professional and legal accountability, a view noted by Gibson and Singh's (1978) and Alger (1980). Accountability, then, becomes a concept that elaborates on the pure view of quality and reflects the federal government's consumer protection activities during the 1970s. The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals (JCAH), which has provided another primary historical leadership role in defining quality assurance, has promoted the evolution of the concept of resource limitations as a part of the definition of quality assurance.

This volume presents a new perspective on demographic transition, economic growth, and national development via exploration of the Third World economies. It provides a multidimensional approach to the close relationship between the concept of the chaos and complexity theory and provides a deliberate glance into the plights of policy formulation for demographic transition, economic growth, and development of Third World countries. The volume discusses the efficiency of good strategies and practices and their impact on business growth and economic growth, depending on the depth and diversity of infrastructures in particular and overall socioeconomic development in general. Economic Growth and Demographic Transition in Third World Nations: A Chaos and Complexity Theory Perspective covers a conglomeration of various aspects and issues related to the effect of demographic transition on socio-economic development in Third World countries, especially in the post-globalized era. It focuses on the applicability of the chaos and complexity theory in order to elicit transformational policies and aims to discuss and predict future projections of the new world of the economic growth policies.

Microbiological Quality Assurance: A Guide Towards Relevance and Reproducibility of Inocula sheds light on the difficulties of obtaining results in the test tube that will be reproducible and relevant for a wide variety of tests. This book explores the current state of research in this area and troubleshoots the problems that may be encountered in setting up appropriate cultures. The text divides naturally into three sections-growth conditions, post-growth conditions, and applications. This book serves as a valuable resource for clinical microbiologists, pharmacologists, and anyone doing in vitro experiments.

This title was first published in 2001. Universities in developing countries have followed their counterparts in developed countries and adopted quality assurance to improve the quality of their activities. This text examines the wisdom of such a move when many of the conditions necessary for its success are not present. It concludes that quality assurance can be useful in developing countries because it shows how a university's seemingly disparate activities are related to one another to serve a common goal and how the quality of these can best be improved by using an integrated approach. Quality assurance also provides more focus and direction to the work of the traditional university system. However, it must be modified to suit the conditions prevailing in developing countries by being simple in design, modest in expectations and realistic in requirements.

Food Process Engineering: Safety Assurance and Complements pursues a logical sequence of coverage of industrial processing of food and raw material where safety and complementary issues are germane. Measures to guarantee food safety are addressed at start, and the most relevant intrinsic and extrinsic factors are reviewed, followed by description of unit operations that control microbial activity via the supply of heat supply or the removal of heat. Operations prior and posterior are presented, as is the case of handling, cleaning, disinfection and rinsing, and efficient treatment and packaging, complemented by a brief introduction to industrial utilities normally present in a food plant. Key Features: Overview the technological issues encompassing properties of food products Provides comprehensive mathematical simulation of food processes Analyzes the engineering of foods at large, and safety and complementary operations in particular, with systematic derivation of all relevant formulas Discusses equipment features required by the underlying processes.

It is increasingly recognized that the greatest risks of error in environmental analysis lie in the sample preparation rather than the analysis stage. This book describes the precautions that must be taken from the sampling to the sample pretreatment via the storage stage to assure good quality. Typical pitfalls - and recommendations for avoiding them - are discussed. Special emphasis is given to the monitoring of trace contaminants in environmental matrices (e.g., water, sediment, plants, air). This book, based on the experience of specialists, constitutes an invaluable guide to the quality assurance relevant to environmental chemists.

How eliminating “risk illiteracy” among doctors and patients will lead to better health care decision making. Contrary to popular opinion, one of the main problems in providing uniformly excellent health care is not lack of money but lack of knowledge—on the part of both doctors and patients. The studies in this book show that many doctors and most patients do not understand
the available medical evidence. Both patients and doctors are “risk illiterate”—frequently unable to tell the difference between actual risk and relative risk. Further, unwarranted disparity in treatment decisions is the rule rather than the exception in the United States and Europe. All of this contributes to much wasted spending in health care. The contributors to Better Doctors, Better Patients, Better Decisions investigate the roots of the problem, from the emphasis in medical research on technology and blockbuster drugs to the lack of education for both doctors and patients. They call for a new, more enlightened health care, with better medical education, journals that report study outcomes completely and transparently, and patients in control of their personal medical records, not afraid of statistics but able to use them to make informed decisions about their treatments.

The Special Issue “Technological Eco-Innovations for the Quality Control and the Decontamination of Polluted Waters and Soils” deals with the most recent research activities carried out at lab and field scale on eco-sustainable tools for the remediation of contaminated environmental substrates. It is particularly devoted to highlight the relevance of biological organisms (plants, microbes, algae) to assess the chemical contamination in water and soil and to remediate such matrices from the pollution caused by the human activities. Therefore, bioremediation is a primary focus of most of the articles published within the present Special Issue. Bioremediation is a promising environmentally friendly technology to deal with the chemical pollution in different ecosystem compartments and its integration with the traditional approaches might represent a significant breakthrough for the environmental decontamination. An overview of the potential of the eco-innovative technologies, with nature-based solutions associated with the modern analytical techniques, is offered along the contributions forming the Special Issue. In this volume, different contaminants occurring in various environmental matrices are focused, both in controlled conditions and on site, with many interesting outcomes useful from research perspectives.

Summary: “This book brings together case study examples in the fields of sustainability, sustainable development, and education for sustainable development”--

The latest volume in the Routledge International Studies in Higher Education series, Accountability in Higher Education takes an in-depth look at accountability initiatives around the world. Various evaluations, reporting schemes, and indicator systems have been initiated both to inform the public about higher education performance and to help transform universities and colleges and improve their functioning. This edited collection provides a comparative analysis of the promises, perils and paradoxes of accountability, and the potential effects on power structures and higher education autonomy, trust and the legitimacy of the sector. Part I describes how accountability is perceived and understood in different regions of the world, identifies some of the most common elements in established accountability initiatives, especially related to quality assurance, and provides direction for possible future development. Part II focuses on responses to new demands for accountability at institutional, national and international levels, and provides practical guidance for handling accountability going forward, emphasizing the dynamic relationship between international development, government strategies and organizational change. This volume is a must-have resource for HE managers, administrators, policy makers, researchers, HE graduate students and those interested or involved with HE accountability practices.

Quality accreditation in higher education institutions (HEIs) is currently a buzzword. The need to maintain high-quality education standards is a critical requirement for HEIs to remain competitive in the market and for government and regulatory bodies to ensure the quality standards of programs offered. From being an implicit requirement that is internally addressed, quality assurance activities become an explicit requirement that is regularly audited and appraised by national and international accreditation agencies. HEIs are voluntarily integrating quality management systems (QMS) institutional and program-specific, in response to the political and competitive environment in which it exists. Through its higher education department or by creating non-profitable accreditation bodies, many governments have implemented a quality framework for licensing HEIs and invigilates its adherence based on which accreditation statuses are granted for HEIs. Global Perspectives on Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education Institutions provides a comprehensive framework for HEIs to address quality assurance and quality accreditation requirements and serves as a practical tool to develop and deploy well-defined quality management systems in higher education. The book focuses on the critical aspects of quality assurance; the need to develop a concise and agile vision, mission, values, and graduate attributes; and to develop a system that effectively aligns the various activities of the HEI to the attainment of the strategic priorities listed in the institutional plans. The chapters each cover the various facets of the quality assurance framework and accreditation agencies' requirements with practical examples of each. This book is useful for HEI administrators, quality assurance specialists in HEIs, heads of academic departments, internal auditors, external auditors, and other practitioners of quality, along with stakeholders, researchers, academicians, and students interested in quality assurance and accreditation in higher education.

Many measurements of product and process characteristics have traditionally been ‘off-line’, involving removing the product and taking it to a quality control laboratory for analysis over a period of hours or even days. However, the development of faster, more automated methods of production, and the shift to more proactive quality and safety management systems such as HACCP, has forced the food industry to look for more rapid methods with the potential for continuous, real-time measurement of products and processes. With its distinguished editor and international team of contributors, this important collection summarises key developments in this growing field. Part one reviews the emergence of new methods for analysing food safety. It includes chapters on the detection of foreign bodies, other contaminants such as toxins, pesticides, dioxins and veterinary residues, and rapid methods for detecting pathogenic and spoilage bacteria. Part two discusses the measurement of product quality. There are chapters on analysing ingredients such as additives and micronutrients, genetically-modified organisms and added water. A number of chapters discuss methods for analysing food composition, and the use of electronic noses to monitor food quality. A final chapter reviews ways of integrating such measurements into effective process control. Rapid and on-line
instrumentation for food quality assurance provides a benchmark of good practice in this important field, and will be a valuable reference for the food industry. Summarises key developments in the growing field of food quality assurance, focussing on rapid and on-line instrumentation. Includes chapters on the detection of foreign bodies, pathogenic and spoilage bacteria and other contaminants such as toxins, pesticides, dioxins and veterinary residues. Discusses the measurement of product quality and analyses ingredients such as additives and micronutrients, genetically-modified organisms and added water.

Complete proceedings of the 13th European Conference on Research Methodology for Business and Management Studies ECRM 2013 PRINT version Published by Academic Conferences and Publishing International Limited.

Herbs and herbal products are of paramount importance for human health. To be able to guarantee safety and quality, standards and testing methods are needed. Pharmacopeias contain quality control protocols setting the standards which are then required by governments. The quality traits are many, including the intrinsic variables of medicinal plant, e.g. the levels of the active compounds, and the absence of possibly natural occurring toxic compounds. On the other hand, many quality traits are related to agricultural conditions and practices, or to the harvesting and post-harvest processing. With so many variables, quality control of the end product becomes extremely complex, time consuming and costly. To ensure the quality of medicinal plants for human consumption quality management -the use of ‘goodpractices’ at each step, from seed to final product- becomes a crucial aspect. In general, quality control includes the inspection of the product’s identity, purity, and content, based on its physical, chemical or biological properties. To ensure the quality of herbal medications, criteria such as botanical quality, type of preparation, physical constants, adulteration, contaminants, chemical constituents, pesticides residues, etc. should be examined. Meanwhile, authentication of herbs is needed to avoid possible adulteration or contaminating plants, even toxic herbs such as Aristolochia species. Many of the methods are long standing, such as microscopy in combination with color reactions, but some 50 years ago chromatography developed a major tool for both qualitative and quantitative analysis of herbal preparations. Nowadays, research is working on the improvement of these methods and on the development of novel tools. For instance, next generation sequencing and mass spectrometry imaging, are emerging as new technologies for the quality control of herbal medicines. With these technologies, quick testing of herbal products and of mixed herbal powder preparations, including the testing for specific plant parts (botanical drugs), can be achieved.

Also, novel chemical tools such as metabolomics and Near Infrared Red (NIR) spectroscopy are being developed as powerful tools to identify and to link these with activity by using chemometric tools such as multivariate analysis. Finally, progress of informatic tools such as machine learning helps to deal with the big data generated by sequencing or mass spectrometry. However, these new technologies, like all other new born technologies, should be tested and perfected for a broader range of products.

Software systems surround us. Software is a critical component in everything from the family car through electrical power systems to military equipment. As software plays an ever-increasing role in our lives and livelihoods, the quality of that software becomes more and more critical. However, our ability to deliver high-quality software has not kept up with those increasing demands. The economic fallout is enormous; the US economy alone is losing over US$50 billion per year due to software failures. This book presents new research into using advanced artificial intelligence techniques to guide software quality improvements. The techniques of chaos theory and data mining are brought to bear to provide new insights into the software development process. Written for researchers and practitioners in software engineering and computational intelligence, this book is a unique and important bridge between these two fields.

First multi-year cumulation covers six years: 1965–70.

Previously, key levers of higher education have seemed to be the learning organization, work-integrated learning for life-long learning, and learner-centered pedagogy. However, funding evolution and the integration of digital tools are changing professional styles and learning behaviors. Nonetheless, the sustainability of higher education requires quality agreement based on ethical, robust, and replicable pedagogical approaches. The Handbook of Research on Operational Quality Assurance in Higher Education for Life-Long Learning is a comprehensive scholarly book that focuses on the evolution of the education framework and job market as well as learning changes needed in organizations to reply to life-long learning and competency-based training initiatives. Highlighting topics such as digital environment, e-learning, and learning analytics, this book is essential for higher education faculty, managers, deans, professionals, administrators, educators, academicians, researchers, and policymakers.

Written by world government and industry experts, this book focuses on the application of new seafood inspection systems that ensure the public health while providing a reasonable environment for business. International trade has experienced very dynamic developments over the last few years, including new international trade agreements and new approaches in food safety inspection. The focus has shifted from traditional end product inspection to modern, preventive methods. Covering all aspects of the industry, Fish Inspection, Quality Control, and HACCP: A Global Focus aids readers in providing the safest possible high quality seafood to the ever-demanding public.

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