

Second International Conference on Ciguatera

Selected Papers Submitted
to the Conference Held in San
Juan, Puerto Rico, 23-25 April 1985

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Preface

In the spring of 1982, a group of individuals with an interest in ciguatera met in San Juan, P.R., for two days under the auspices of the Caribbean Fisheries Management Council, the Sea Grant Program of the University of Puerto Rico, and the Corporation for the Development of Marine Resources (CODREMAR). Discussions centered on the socioeconomic impact of ciguatera as well as on strategies needed for resolving the accompanying problems. Those who could not attend the meeting were disappointed that no permanent record resulted from this conference.

By 1985, a second conference seemed timely in view of new investigators in the field and of the progress in ciguatera research. In addition, it would be possible to correct the shortcomings of the first meeting by publishing the proceedings of the second conference.

The Second Ciguatera Conference was held in the Condado Beach area of San Juan, P.R. Its success was, in large measure, due to the Caribbean Fisheries Management Council, whose staff and members gave generously of their time and resources. These Proceedings have resulted from planning and discussions between the Conference Steering and Editorial Committees.

Five sponsoring groups combined to support this venture: the Caribbean Fisheries Management Council (Omar Muñoz-Roure, Executive Director), the Sea Grant Program and the Department of Marine Sciences of the University of Puerto Rico (Manuel Hernández-Avila, Director), CODREMAR (Ivan Sánchez-Ayéndec, Executive Director), the National Marine Fisheries Service Southeast Fisheries Center (Richard Berry, Director), and the Medical University of South Carolina. Each participant owes a special thanks to Omar Muñoz-Roure, whose support and interest in ciguatera research made this con-

ference possible.

Ciguatera research is multidisciplinary in nature and international in scope. Solutions have come slowly, but can be hastened by fostering greater awareness of the complex chemical and biological facets of ciguatera. Periodic conferences play an important part in free scientific discourse and in enhancing public understanding of all aspects of ciguatera—public health, scientific, and socio-legal. We look forward to further progress in this area and to additional opportunities to present the work in the field and in the laboratory to our colleagues for their information, for the opportunity to receive constructive criticism, and for all of us to continue to learn and understand this problem we call ciguatera.

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