

## Foreword

The papers in this special issue of *Biogeochemistry* summarize the results of a workshop held on Block Island, Rhode Island, USA, in May 1994. This was the first of several workshops planned as part of the International SCOPE Project on Nitrogen Transport and Transformations: A Regional and Global Analysis. This project is sponsored by SCOPE, the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment, International Council of Scientific Unions, because of the recognized need to better understand how humans have altered nitrogen cycling at large regional scales, and what the consequences of this alteration are.

This first workshop assessed what is known about nitrogen cycling in the North Atlantic Ocean and its watersheds, with a particular emphasis on how human activity has altered nitrogen fluxes. Over 40 scientists from 13 nations contributed to the great success of this workshop. The resulting papers consist of a summary overview, 4 core chapters which reflect the consensus viewpoints of the 4 working groups of the meeting, and a few notes which elaborate on particular aspects of nitrogen cycling in the North Atlantic Basin. I hope that the readers of *Biogeochemistry* share my enthusiasm and that of the meeting participants for the many exciting findings presented in this issue.

The Block Island workshop was sponsored by the United Nations Environment Program, the World Meteorological Organization, and the Mellon Foundation. The Mellon Foundation also provides additional financial support for the SCOPE Nitrogen Project. James Galloway and I served as co-chairs for the meeting. Other members of the organizing committee included Ragnar Elmgren, Joseph Prospero, Anthony Knap, Anthony Michaels, Jennie Moody, and Scott Nixon. Scott Nixon also served as local host for the workshop. Support for the meeting was provided by Ellen Yoder of the University of Rhode Island, Mary Scott Kaiser of the University of Virginia, and Roxanne Marino, Emily Ehrenfeld, and Dennis Swaney of Cornell University. I am grateful to all.

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Editor-in-Chief