



Introduction

Our first book in the Ingredient Resource Series, *AHAs and Cellulite Products*, sold out of two printings in three years. Rather than reprint it again, we've expanded the topic of that book to cover the whole field of treatment or "active" cosmetics, thus *Cosmeceuticals: Active Skin Treatment* was published in 1998.

In the years since the original publication, the topic of cosmeceuticals has grown and the focus has broadened considerably. In response, we have reissued *Cosmeceuticals: Active Skin Treatment*, which now features several new chapters from industry leaders. The additional sections focus on areas such as formulating for sensitive skin, amphoteric hydroxy complexes, pollution and aging, whitening efficacy, and substantiating antiaging product claims.

The term "cosmeceutical" has been surrounded by controversy, as some chapters in this book explain. Mostly, the debate circles around issues of consumer protection, product safety and industry responsibility, with the main question being, "How much activity can a product claim or deliver without changing from a cosmetic to a pharmaceutical product?" Industry authorities put forth their arguments for whether or not a separate category is useful or necessary, and the FDA's position regarding "active" cosmetics is explained. Obviously, the personal care industry is interested in avoiding falling under drug regulations whenever possible because of the added costs and complications.

However, one point that no one debates is the fact that treatment cosmetics are here to stay. Drawing on the expertise and international backgrounds of the authors in *Cosmetics & Toiletries*® magazine, this book covers a wide range of regulatory and formulating topics within the area of active cosmetics. Besides the discussions of AHA efficacy and modes of action and the investigations into the anticellulite

efficacy of various actives, this book includes excellent reviews on ceramides and hyaluronic acid as skin-care ingredients as well as a summary of the role of application frequency in drug dosing, tackling the question of whether one larger dose or three smaller doses (adding up to the same total dose) will deliver more of the active on the skin. Other chapters cover an efficient scheme for formulating treatment products, formulating for sensitive skin, sensitivity in ethnic skin types and the special care considerations formulators need to be aware of for infant and elderly skin.

If you are involved in the burgeoning field of treatment cosmetics, this book is packed with information you need: identifying target populations, offering formulation strategies, and explaining some of the safety and regulatory issues. Not to mention giving you solid information on the modes of action and proven efficacy of the key cosmeceutical actives: AHAs and other anti-aging or anticellulite actives, skin whiteners, moisturizers and enzymes.