

## Foreword

Hereafter are several review and original articles issued from the presentations made at the fourth meeting\* of an INRA network bringing together investigators from different departments of the institute in the converging areas of mammary gland biology and milk.

This year programme featured presentations covering a wide range of topics relating to the structure-function relationships of native products (proteins and lipids) of milk, or to the transformation of these structures during milk processing, and to physiological or pathological roles of milk components. Much credit should be given to the organizers of the sessions (M.-C. Michalski, INRA Rennes, France; D. Dupont, INRA Poligny and J.-M. Chobert, INRA Nantes, France) who achieved a successful blend of talks. As in previous years, several participants have decided to share their work and concepts further by submitting manuscripts to “*Reproduction, Nutrition, Development*”. Many thanks to them.

Our thanks are also due to all those contributors and participants who, in our view, made the meeting a success. We are also grateful to the referees for their cooperation and to all concerned by the editorial process.

Eric Chanat\*\*

---

\* The meeting was supported by INRA, “Département de Physiologie Animale et Systèmes d’Élevage”.

\*\* Corresponding author: chanat@jouy.inra.fr