Preface

In the Preface to the first edition of this book in 1996 I expressed the hope that the contents would act as a practical guide to actions that need to be taken in the day-to-day management of R&D in the chemical industry; a “nuts and bolts of management” as accurately described by one reviewer. That this proved to be the case was evidenced buy the fact that a second edition was published in 2003, in which the contents were expanded and modified to include management issues relevant to both the chemical and pharmaceutical industries.

Way back in 1996 little did expect that some ten years later I would be asked to write a third edition, but as can be seen this has proved to be the case. I have therefore taken the opportunity to bring up to date relevant sections on organisation of R&D in a global context, outsourcing and virtual companies; laboratory automation, regulatory affairs and product registration; project, change and knowledge managements to reflect current practice in these areas. I wish to thank my good friend Peter Murray for his help with the latter two topics.

The style and grammar of the first two editions of this book were greatly influenced by the constructive criticism I received from my late wife Mary, in whose memory I wish to dedicate the new edition.

Peter Bamfield, 2006