

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This safety review was conducted by the Burdock Group, at the request of the sponsor. Dr. William Waddell was selected as the chair of the review expert panel, and had a free hand in selection of the panelists. As described in the introduction, panelists were chosen to achieve representation of the complete spectrum of toxicological expertise relevant to aspartame. The identity of the sponsor of the review was unknown to the chair and the expert panelists throughout the conduct and completion of the review. The identity of panelists also remained unknown to the sponsor. The Burdock Group managed reimbursement of panelists. There were no known conflicts of interest or potential biases of the authors. This review represents the professional views of the authors.

*Note added in proof.* The identity of the sponsor of this review was also unknown to peer reviewers and the editor until acceptance of manuscript. The sponsor was Ajinomoto Company, Inc.