Continuous culture reborn or revived?

Charles Cooney

Follow this and additional works at: https://dc.engconfintl.org/microbial_ii
CONTINUOUS CULTURE REBORN OR REVIVED?

Charles Cooney, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA
ccooney@mit.edu

With its roots in the early 20th century, continuous microbial culture has been used as a laboratory tool to study a cellular physiology under stead state conditions and as a production methodology to achieve high productivity. Literature from the 1950’s and 60’s proclaim its impact as “transformational to industrial microbiology”. While in reflection, it has not transformed industrial microbial based manufacturing; I will attempt to bring the history alive and into perspective as to why it has not had the impact forecast by early practitioners and what is different in today’s world that will make it attractive in the lab commerce.