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CONFERENCE ON THE ADRENAL CORTEX 2008

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PREFACE

ADRENAL 2008, the thirteenth meeting of the Adrenal Cortex Conference, was held in the Sheraton Gateway Hotel, Burlingame, CA from June 11–14, 2008 as a Satellite Symposium of the 89th Annual Meeting of the Endocrine Society held in San Francisco. The co-organizers were Alexander C. Brownie (University of Buffalo), Maria Dufau (National Institutes of Health) and Bernard Schimmer (University of Toronto). The program advisory committee consisted of Stefan Bornstein (Technical University, Dresden), Adrian J. Clark (Barts & London School of Medicine), Gary Hammer (University of Michigan), Ian Mason (University of Edinburgh), Walter L. Miller (University of California, San Francisco), Ken-ichiro Morohashi, (Kyushu University), Keith Parker, University of Texas SW Medical Center), Paul Stewart (University of Birmingham) and Douglas Stocco (Texas Tech University). Funding was provided by: The Eunice Kennedy Shriver Foundation, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development; the Office of Rare Diseases, National Institutes of Health; the University Michigan Millie Schembechler Adrenal Cancer Program; the Endocrine Society; the Department of Biochemistry and the Office of Research, University of Buffalo; Adrenal 2006.

The meeting brought together a diverse group of 101 basic and clinician scientists from 15 different countries to discuss research findings related to the physiology, biochemistry and molecular biology of the adrenal cortex and their impact on human health and disease. The role of the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis in energy balance, the molecular biology/genetics of adrenocortical tumors and hyperplasias and the genetics of rare adrenal disorders in humans were topics featured at the meeting.

The 33 articles that comprise this special issue of Molecular and Cellular Endocrinology reflect the science discussed at Adrenal 2008 and are grouped under the following broad subject headings: I) Hormones, receptors and signal transduction; II) Cholesterol mobilization and biosynthesis and action of steroid hormones; III) Regulation and functions of the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis; IV) Adrenal hyperplasias, tumors and cancers; v) Adrenal-related mutations and clinical disorders. Also included is a commentary by Gavin Vinson (Queen Mary, University of London) on the physiological importance of the adrenal steroids in glucose homeostasis. All of the articles were peer-reviewed. We thank Ilpo Huhtaniemi, the Editor-in-Chief, William Rainey, Managing Editor USA, and Emma O'Connell, Journal Manager at Elsevier, for facilitating the publication of these proceedings in Molecular and Cellular Endocrinology. Finally, notes of appreciation are extended to Willy Brownie-Bakhuizen who

handled registrations at the meeting, to Maria Dufau who helped secure the external funding from the National Institutes of Health and to Garry Hammer who helped secure the external funding from the University Michigan Millie Schembechler Adrenal Cancer Program.