Preface

These proceedings represent selected presentations given at the eighth International Conference on Alzheimer's and Parkinson's Diseases (AD/PD), which took place in Salzburg, Austria, on March 14–18, 2007. These conferences are unique in that they deal with issues related individually to Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's disease, as well as the integration between them and to other related diseases.

Over 2,200 individuals attended this conference. This number exceeded the attendance at all of the previous AD/PD conferences. We believe that this is due to the rich scientific program that was assembled by the organizers, coupled with the intimate nature of these conferences, which facilitates interactions among colleagues, students and more seasoned scientists, and serves as a catalyst for future new interactions and, hopefully, important new discoveries. In addition, we are progressively increasing the number of competitive travel stipends for junior investigators, from one conference to the next.

This publication is initiating a new format in that it is not being published as a textbook (as was done on all the preceding conferences). Rather, it constitutes a special issue of the journal *Neurodegenerative Diseases*. This will facilitate a more rapid publication of the proceedings, and a much wider distribution to all subscribers and readers of this journal. We intend to continue this format of publication of the proceedings of future AD/PD conferences as well (the next one will take place in Prague, on March 11–15, 2009).

Support from industry always represents the financial backbone to international conferences of the magnitude and scope such as that of the AD/PD conferences. We are very grateful to the following companies for their generous support to the conference in Salzburg: Gold Sponsors: Boehringer Ingelheim, Ebewe Pharma, Elan, and Wyeth; Silver Sponsors: GE Healthcare, GlaxoSmith-Kline, and Solvay Pharmaceuticals; Bronze Sponsors: AstraZeneca, Cognitive Drug Research, Merck, Neuropharma, and Valeant Pharmaceuticals International; Other Sponsors: Austrian Airlines, Bayer HealthCare (Bayer Schering Pharma), Cornelli Consulting Industria Farmaceutica, Lundbeck, Merz (Dr. Kolassa + Merz), Neurochem, Probiobdrug, and Teva Pharmaceutical Industries, Ltd.

The superb organizational skills of the Kenes crew were intimately responsible for the smooth function of a congress of this size. Moreover, the professionalism of the S. Karger AG editorial personnel made working with them on this publication a delight.

We hope to see you at AD/PD Number 9, in 2009.

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