Preface

Máximo E. Drets will be celebrating his 80th birthday on April 21, 2010. To honor him we have prepared a dedication volume entitled 'Chromosomes, Genomes and Beyond' in collaboration with *Cytogenetic and Genome Research*. This issue provides a collection of original and review articles contributed by Máximo's former coworkers and colleagues who have shared with him common research interests over the years.

We wish to express our deep gratitude to Michael Schmid, Chief Editor of *Cytogenetic and Genome Research*. We are also indebted to Martina Guttenbach, Mechthild Büche, Judy Hartz and Claus Steinlein from the Editorial Office for their excellent support and many helpful suggestions, which have contributed considerably to make this volume possible. Finally, we especially wish to thank the *Museo Torres García* in Montevideo (Uruguay) for reproduction permission of the masterpiece 'América del Sur' (1936) by the Uruguayan painter Joaquín Torres García on the cover of the present volume.

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