Preface

The 10th International Conference on the Chemistry and Biology of Mineralized Tissues (ICCBMT) was held on November 7–12, 2010, at the Carefree Resort, Carefree, Ariz., USA. The aim of this meeting was to disseminate state-of-the-art information about the structure, function, and interactions of the mineral, matrix, and cellular components in bones, teeth, and other mineralized vertebrate and invertebrate tissues while encouraging discussion and collaboration among investigators in different disciplines. This special issue of *Cells Tissues Organs* contains invited papers highlighting the research presented at the conference and the interdisciplinary approaches our participants use to study various aspects of mineralized tissues.

As the 10th ICCBMT co-chairs, we are proud to have maintained the goals and tradition of this truly interdisciplinary conference established by Drs. Arthur Veis, William Butler, and Melvin Glimcher. The first three conferences, held in Chicago, Ill., USA, in 1981 (hosted by Dr. Veis with support from Dr. Butler), in Gulf Shores, Ala., USA, in 1985 (hosted by Drs. Butler and Anders Linde), and in Chatham, Mass., USA, in 1988 (hosted by Drs. Glimcher, Jane Lian, and Gideon Rodan) established the importance of the ICCBMT for the international scientific community. The conferences that followed, including the 10th ICCBMT in Carefree, Ariz., USA, have been true to the tradition developed by the cofounders while expanding to a global audience.

From the 10th ICCBMT abstract submissions, ~50 were chosen for oral presentation and the remaining 90 were presented during the poster sessions. The diversity of the topics presented is well represented in this special topic issue of *Cells Tissues Organs*. Several highlights of our meeting included the opening session on *Bio-mineralization: Natural, Unnatural and Supernatural*, with overview presentations by Drs. Steve Weiner, Eileen

Shore, and Molly Stevens; a workshop on *The Future of Microscopy for Interrogating Soft-Hard Interfaces* organized by Dr. Jim DeYoreo, and the Eve and Arthur Veis Keynote Address given by Dr. Lawrence DeLucas. Dr. DeLucas fielded questions on his research and experiences as a payload specialist aboard NASA Space Shuttle mission STS-50 launched in June 1992.

An important tradition we are proud to have continued, is support for junior investigators to attend the conference. We, the co-organizers, began attending the ICCBMT conferences during our doctoral or postdoctoral studies. It is our hope that many of the junior investigators attending the 10th ICCBMT, including the 33 who received travel awards, will continue their research careers in the study of mineralized tissues and return to future ICCBMT conferences to share their work with us.

We are grateful for the generous financial support provided by government agencies, scientific organizations, industries, and universities that made the 10th ICCBMT possible.

We also thank the members of the Scientific Advisory Board for their time and effort in reviewing the submitted abstracts and manuscripts and their general input. We would also like to acknowledge the support of the ICCBMT Board who provided guidance and who participated actively in our fund-raising activities. Furthermore, we are most grateful to Jeff Allison, who handled the administrative activities before and during the conference. Many thanks to Cathy Ferrie for her work on the program book, to Jason O'Young for maintaining the ICCBMT website, and to Pablo Bringas and Keith Bromley for their technical assistance during the conference.

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**10th ICCBMT, November 7–12, 2010
Carefree, Ariz., USA**

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