Preface

This issue represents selected presentations given at the 11th International Conference on Alzheimer's and Parkinson's Diseases (AD/PD). The conference focused on mechanisms, clinical strategies and promising treatments of neurodegenerative diseases. It took place at the Fortezza da Basso in Florence, Italy, on March 6–10, 2013.

The AD/PD conferences are unique in that they deal with issues related individually to AD and PD, the integration of these two disease states, as well as the study of their biomolecular and clinical correlations with other neurodegenerative diseases.

Over 3,000 individuals from 79 countries attended this conference. This number exceeded the attendance at all earlier AD/PD meetings. We believe that this is due to the diverse scientific, integrated program that is consistently assembled by the organizers, coupled with the intimate nature of these AD/PD conferences, which is achieved by facilitation of interactions among seasoned colleagues, junior faculty and students. These factors serve as a catalyst for future new interactions and, hopefully, important new discoveries. Also, we have progressively increased the number of competitive travel stipends for junior investigators, from one AD/PD conference to the next (for more extensive information, please see www.kenes.com/adpd).

The Local Scientific Advisory Board consisting of Professors Giancarlo Pepeu, Sandro Sorbi and Fabrizio Stocchi was extremely helpful in providing valuable scientific input and in suggesting local arrangements and enter-

tainment prospects at the venue of the conference itself. Their advice contributed significantly to the success of AD/PD 2013.

Support from industry represents the financial backbone to international conferences of the magnitude and scope such as that of the AD/PD conferences. We would like to express our gratitude to the following companies for their invaluable support for the congress in Florence. *Gold*: Axon Neuroscience SE, Eli Lilly and Company; *silver*: Accera Inc., Biogen Idec, EnVivo Pharmaceuticals, Neurimmune Holding AG, Probiobdrug AG, QPS; *bronze*: Io Therapeutics Inc.; *sponsors*: Covance, GE Healthcare, Greenberg Family, Nutricia Advanced Medical Nutrition, Pfizer & Janssen Alzheimer's Alliance, Prothena (formerly Elan); *supporters*: Cambridge Cognition and reMYND, plus 24 *exhibitors* at the conference.

Last but certainly not least – the superb organizational skills of Ms. Keren Shurkin and her expert team of Kenes personnel were ultimately responsible for the smooth and efficient function of a congress of this size. Moreover, the cooperation and professionalism of the S. Karger AG editorial personnel made working with them on editing and assembling this publication a delight.

We hope to see you at AD/PD No. 12, which will take place in Nice, France, in March 2015.

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