Drug Dosage The authors and the publisher have exerted every effort to ensure that drug selection and dosage set forth in this text are in accord with current recommendations and practice at the time of publication. However, in view of ongoing research, changes in government regulations, and the constant flow of information relating to drug therapy and drug reactions, the reader is urged to check the package insert for each drug for any change in indications and dosage and for added warnings and precautions. This is particularly important when the recommended agent is a new and/or infrequently employed drug.

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Printed in Switzerland on acid-free paper by Thur AG Offsetdruck, Pratteln
ISBN 3 8055-6373-6

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Foreword

I am delighted to introduce this volume edited by R.D.G. Leslie on the molecular pathogenesis of diabetes mellitus. This is the third volume in the series of Frontiers of Hormone Research since I became Editor-in-Chief, and this too follows in the general theme of the series. We have endeavoured to promote, and indeed continue to do so, the idea that our increased understanding of molecular pathways can directly impact on clinical medicine, specifically in the area of endocrinology. Of all clinical disciplines, endocrinology is one which I believe is most closely allied to basic biochemical and molecular sciences, and is one in which the development of ideas from laboratory bench
to clinical practice has been so rapid. It is therefore of particular importance that an understanding of molecular mechanisms becomes rapidly disseminated throughout endocrine and clinical practice, and this is the underlying concept behind the current series. Earlier volumes on the molecular biology of pituitary tumours and of development in pineal research have emphasised this theme, but this is probably nowhere more clearly important than in our understanding of diabetes mellitus. Of all endocrine disorders, this series of diseases has greater clinical impact and causes more suffering than any other. There have been remarkable advances in our understanding of the immunology of diabetes mellitus in recent years, and also of the structure and function of the insulin receptor and its signalling pathways. It therefore seems an entirely appropriate time in which to bring together a series of papers on the current state of understanding in the molecular pathogenesis of diabetes mellitus, and I am grateful to David Leslie, in particular, for persuading an international team of experts to review the present state of affairs. Already such basic research has had clinical impact, and a plethora of new therapies are under review; I am certain that, as we approach the next millennium, further basic research will make major inroads into the treatment of this common and devastating disorder.

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