Preface

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This special issue of *Developmental Neuroscience* represents the proceedings of the Third Hershey Conference on Developmental Cerebral Blood Flow and Metabolism, which was held at the Hershey Hotel, Hershey, Pa., USA, June 6–9, 2002. Drs. Susan and Robert Vannucci had organized this conference following two previously successful conferences in June of 1997 and 2000. As in previous years, this year's conference was an international meeting (with approximately 65 participants) that was highly interactive. Twenty-seven participants from 8 countries, including the USA, presented plenary talks, with 17 additional poster presentations. The conference brought together clinicians, basic scientists, fellows and graduate students in a relaxed setting to share their discoveries and thoughts with the goal of understanding the mechanisms that lead to perinatal brain injury and progress in identifying new treatments. The conference was funded largely by the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (1R13 NS 43136) with an additional contribution from the Department of Pediatrics at Hershey.

Scientific sessions began with a keynote address by Dr. Richard Traystman, of Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Dr. Traystman presented an enlightening, entertaining, and provocative seminar on the cerebrovascular effects of cocaine in the fetus, newborn and adult. The next talks focused on the mechanisms of cerebral

maturation and included talks by Mary McKenna, University of Maryland; William J. Pearce, Loma Linda University; Steven W. Levison, Penn State University; Raymond Koehler, Johns Hopkins University, and Elly Rocha, University of Western Ontario.

The afternoon session of the first day focused on signal transduction pathways as targets for cell preservation after hypoxia/ischemia. Talks were presented by Donna Ferriero, University of California, San Francisco; Timothy Schallert, University of Texas, Austin; David Holtzman, Washington University School of Medicine; Henrik Hagberg, Sahlgrenska University Hospital, Goteborg, Sweden; Tony Cheung, University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, SAR China, and Christine Fox, University of California, San Francisco.

The morning session of the second day was divided into two sessions: the first focused on seizures, and the second session focused on white matter damage. Seizures are a frequent accompaniment to perinatal brain damage, and so, they were a topic of several presentations. Talks were presented by Harry Chugani, Wayne State University; Solomon Moshé, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, and Jerome Yager, University of Saskatchewan, Canada. White matter damage is frequently observed in survivors of perinatal hypoxic/ischemic brain damage and hence was the topic of several presentations. Talks on this subject were presented by Terri Wood, Penn State College of

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Medicine; Stephen A. Back, Oregon Health Sciences University, and Stephen Miller, University of California, San Francisco.

The afternoon session of the second day focused again on the mechanisms of hypoxic/ischemic brain damage. Talks were presented by David Edwards, Imperial College of Medicine, Hammersmith Hospital, London, UK; Sidhartha Tan, Northwestern University; Cacha Peeters-Scholte, University Medical Center, Wilhelmina Children's Hospital, Utrecht, The Netherlands; Evelyn R. W. van den Tweel, University Medical Center, Wilhelmina Children's Hospital, Utrecht, The Netherlands; Stéphane Sizonenko, University of Geneva, Geneva, Switzerland; Courtney Robertson, University of Maryland School of Medicine; Ben Wagner, University Children's Hospital, Berne Switzerland, and Andreas W. Loeper, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine.

The final day of the meeting included a special talk by Dr. Marvin Cornblath, who presented a historical perspective on newborn hypoglycemia. Following his talk, the attendees participated in a panel discussion on animal models of developmental brain injury. A synopsis of this discussion is provided in this special issue.

At the end of the conference, there was complete agreement that this had been yet another extremely exciting and enlightening meeting, and it was unanimously decided to schedule a fourth Conference on Developmental Cerebral Blood Flow and Metabolism for June 2004. It was further agreed that, although the conference will continue to be called the Hershey Conference, the location will now alternate to include the West Coast, East Coast, and Europe. Donna Ferriero offered to host the next meeting, which will likely be in the Bay area of California.