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Volume Editors

Eduardo Arzt  Buenos Aires
Marcello Bronstein  Sao Paulo
Mirtha Guitelman  Buenos Aires

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Foreword

The pituitary and its disorders remain of perennial interest, and in a fast-developing field we make no apology for devoting another volume in this series to the subject, hard on the heels of Molecular Pathology of the Pituitary [vol. 32, 2004] Most intriguingly, this volume also developed from a meeting in South America, in this case one based at Iguazu Falls in Argentina, rather than Rio de Janeiro. Once again, a series of national and international experts converged on one of the most spectacular settings in the world, and I believe we have included in this volume many of the most scientifically exciting and clinically relevant areas in contemporary neuroendocrinology. But equally, I feel it also reveals much of the enthusiasm and dynamism of neuroendocrinology in South America, certainly in two of the largest countries Brazil and Argentina, but increasingly in many of the smaller South American countries. This is an exciting time in neuroendocrinology, and the South American continent is making salient and important contributions to its development.

Such meetings, held in surroundings of outstanding natural beauty, also encourage the initiation and deepening of many personal interactions, and I would like to underline my own deep thanks to the organizers and all my South-American colleagues. My daughter Sophie and I were subject to warm and welcoming local hospitality, and I will always fondly remember this conference. I would also like to take the opportunity to emphasize the totally unrestricted educational grant from Pfizer in supporting this meeting, demonstrating that international pharmaceutical companies can play a vital and, when required, disinterested role in the development of clinical science.

Ashley Grossman, North Devon
Preface

In November 1–4, 2005, in the spectacular setting of Iguazu falls, almost 140 professionals in medicine (endocrinologists, neurosurgeons), basic research and clinical biochemistry were hosted at the scientific meeting ‘Pituitary Today’, where all aspects related to the pituitary gland were discussed. Specialists from Latin America (including delegates from Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Peru and Venezuela) gathered together for this event, together with expert speakers from Canada, USA, Germany, England and Australia who attended the event as invited guests.

Different aspects of pituitary physiopathology were covered in several symposia. Many of these lectures are now included in this book, including: Tumorigenesis (Melmed, Seilicovich, Arzt), Prolactinomas (Sarkar, Becu-Villalobos, Clapp), Hormone regulation and action (Drouin, Ghigo), GH/acromegaly (Ho, Bronstein, Goya), and HPA axis and Cushing (Grossman, De Nicola, Stalla). In addition, two consensus meetings on the diagnosis and treatment of pituitary disease (on acromegaly and prolactinomas) were discussed during the meeting, the one on prolactinomas being reported by Guitelman.

The meeting took place in a special environment where a scientific, cultural, and social exchange was predominant. In addition, we would like to emphasize that a group of young basic science and clinical fellows were also invited, presenting their results and thereby enriching the debates.

As coordinators of this event, we would like to express our thanks and recognition to Pfizer Laboratories who made ‘Pituitary Today’ possible in Latin
America; we also would like to mention the excellence of their staff whose working capacity allowed this meeting to attain an outstanding international level. We, as volume editors, thank all the contributors to this book of the series *Frontiers in Hormone Research* from Karger Publishers, Basel.

*Mirtha Guitelman*, Buenos Aires  
*Marcello D. Bronstein*, Sao Paulo  
*Eduardo Arzt*, Buenos Aires