



Dedication

This special issue on galectins is dedicated to Professor Samuel H. Barondes in honor of his 70th birthday, December 21, 2003. Dr. Barondes is Professor of Psychiatry at Center for Neurobiology and Psychiatry, Langley Porter Psychiatric Institute, University of California, San Francisco, and is one of the founders and early champions of the galectin field.

At the time that Dr. Barondes began to work on the proteins that became known as galectins, his impetus was to find molecules involved in cell adhesion; Dr. Barondes' long term aim was to explain the mechanism of specific recognition between neurons, as part of his mission to apply basic science to the field of psychiatry.

Indeed, galectins now appear to be involved in some instances of neuronal recognition. However, Dr. Barondes, a true basic scientist, also realized that galectins had more general roles to play in the cell. Through his work, he provided pioneering insight into the surprising variety of activities of galectins in different cells, tissues, and organisms, which are exemplified in this special issue.