

Foreword

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During the past 5 years, the Collège International de Recherche Servier (CIRS), a not-for-profit foundation based in Neuilly, France, has sponsored 4 interdisciplinary colloquia on major problems affecting human health. The collection of articles on sleep and its disorders published in this supplement to *Metabolism* is the most recent in this series—of which the first 3 were on stress, aging, and depression.

The articles published herein were authored by members of CIRS's Scientific Committee—an international group composed of distinguished representatives from a number of disciplines, including genetics, neurobiology, pharmacology, endocrinology, metabolism, psychiatry, neurosurgery, and cardiopulmonary medicine. At each of its meetings, the group has chosen to address a topic of major public health importance—one to which each member was able to make a unique scientific contribution.

Earlier this year, CIRS established a Web site (www.college-servier.com) that provides basic information about

the foundation's mission, its administration, and the members of its scientific committee. In addition, abstracts of all of the scientific articles published by CIRS to date are provided for public viewing and downloading. By this means, CIRS makes its services readily available to health professionals throughout the world.

As always, I wish to thank Dr Jacques Servier, President, *Les Laboratoires Servier*, for his continued generous support of CIRS and its scientific activities. The CIRS now has an editorial committee consisting of its President, the Chairman, and Vice Chairman of its Scientific Committee (Dr Theodore B. VanItallie and Dr Madhu Kalia), and Dr Jorge Costa e Silva. Special thanks are due Drs VanItallie, Kalia, and Costa e Silva for their diligent editorial efforts and to all the members of the Scientific Committee for their continuing, valuable contributions to CIRS's Annals.