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## Editorial

THE impetus for this special issue came from the 1st European meeting of Pharmacology, Biochemistry, and Behavior held in Morzine, France, in January 1996. At this meeting the topics discussed were innate fear responses, genetic selection, sexually differentiated behaviours and the roles of neurosteroids, and the endocrine and immune systems. A central theme was the interrelationships between anxiety, stress, and depression, which is the topic of this Special Issue. The majority of the articles came from work presented at the conference but articles received at the European office in the normal way that were particularly pertinent to the topic have also been included. Such was the breadth and depth of the contributions that I felt rather more than a one-page overview was warranted. I am only sorry that time pressure prevented me from doing greater justice to the interesting issues raised.

One of the purposes of the meeting was to encourage the development of the subject in Europe. As can be seen, the contributions to this issue come from 17 different countries, and delegates from a further 5 European countries attended the meeting. We were particularly pleased to welcome scientists from the Eastern European countries of Estonia, Hungary, Serbia, Croatia, Russia, and the Czech Republic. A second purpose was to provide a forum in which young researchers could present their work. We are delighted to continue this tradition, started by Matt Wayner. Thanks to the generosity of Astra (Sweden), Battelle (Switzerland), Knoll (UK), Servier (France), and Wyeth (UK), we were able to sponsor 20 young scientists.

The success of the Special Issue is thanks to all the contributors and reviewers who managed to meet the deadlines despite the problems of the European postal services, to Nick Andrews, the managing editor, and to Alayne Bakken, the production editor. I am indebted to Paul Carton, Daniel Schiff, and Chris Giaccone from Elsevier for their support for the idea of running a European meeting associated with the Journal. An especially large thank you goes to Cathy Fernandes who tackled the daunting organisational tasks associated with the meeting with efficiency and cheerfulness. In ventures such as this one really discovers true friends; I am grateful there were so many and am only sorry that they cannot all be mentioned by name. I hope the readers gain as much enjoyment from these articles as we all gained in our discussions at the meeting.

Sandra E. File