

Introductory Remarks

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This special issue is dedicated to the pioneering achievement of Professor Werner Loewenstein in the discovery and advancement of our understanding of gap junctions. Contributions to this issue are selected from those presented at the International Conference on “Physiological and Pathological Importance of Gap Junctions” which was held in Tokyo, 20–22 November, 2006. It is my great pleasure, as Chairman of the Organizing and Program Committees of this conference, to oversee the preparation of the conference proceedings as a special issue to honor Prof Loewenstein. Indeed, the significance of the discovery

of gap junctions by Prof Loewenstein was continuously realized in the conference, since we are still expanding our findings on their physiological and pathological importance.

I would like to thank Dr Tom Woolf, the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Membrane Biology, for providing us this excellent opportunity to publish some of the contributions of the meeting on this important topic. I would also like to thank members of the Organizing and Program Committees and the sponsors of the conference, especially Amway Japan Co., for making the meeting successful.

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