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# Journal of Steroid Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

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## Editorial

### Mission to steroids

#### 1. New editorial board

It is a great privilege and a huge challenge for me to assume the responsibility of Editor-in-Chief of *Journal of Steroid Biochemistry and Molecular Biology*. My goals in the coming years will be to continue the *Journal's* policy and to maintain and strengthen our position in the international arena as the leading journal in the field. It is a challenge to keep the *Journal* attractive, and at the forefront of a very competitive, dynamic and fast developing steroid research environment. With that in mind, I am delighted to welcome as new Associate Editors, Professor Barry Potter from the University of Bath, UK, Professor Alex Odermatt from the University of Basel, Switzerland, and Professor Hironobu Sasano from the Tohoku University Graduate School of Medicine, Sendai, Japan. These remarkably talented colleagues bring a very keen understanding of the advances being made in the basic sciences as well as their translational significance in steroid research.

In the next year we will also be announcing some changes in the editorial board. These are intended to broaden the scope of coverage of the *Journal* to be more inclusive of recent developments, and to better serve the scientific community. The Editorial Board members of the *Journal* possess key expertise in steroid research, and their influence on past and future research worldwide is pivotal. The Editorial Board will be further expanded to represent the expansion of research interest in deep drilling strategies in structural biology, metabolomics or genome wide association studies and their driving force in molecular life evolution, environmental challenges to health, and drug development.

A further change being implemented on the *Journal* are modifications aimed at improving our speed of publication. All new submissions will be evaluated quickly and, if they are appropriate for the *Journal*, suitable reviewers will be rapidly solicited. I truly expect that the reviewers will help to speed up this process, without compromising the thoroughness of scientific evaluation.

#### 2. The Journal of Steroid Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

The steroid research field is expanding as the boundaries between population studies, functional genetics, biochemistry, molecular biology and translational research are becoming less obvious. Historically *The Journal of Steroid Biochemistry and Molecular Biology* has reflected the major trends in steroid research and the expertise among the present Editorial Board likewise.

In his unprecedented and pioneering work Dr. Jorge Pasqualini founded and established the journal forty years ago and as Editor-in-Chief he has led the *Journal* with dedication and enthusiasm. I

would like to express my personal respect to Dr. Pasqualini for his initiatives and to thank him for his leadership and hard work on the *Journal* over the past few decades.

#### 3. Mission and aims

The *Journal* is devoted to new experimental or theoretical developments in areas related to steroids. We seek to publish a variety of contributions, including original articles, general and focused reviews, and rapid communications (brief articles of particular interest and clear novelty). Selected cutting-edge topics will be addressed in Special Issues managed by Guest Editors to provide comprehensive coverage with focused impact. Special Issues will contain both commissioned reviews and invited original research, and all articles will undergo rigorous peer-review prior to publication.

Manuscripts relating to unsolved issues in genetics, molecular biology, biochemistry, structural biology, steroid chemistry, cell biology, molecular medicine, and clinical medicine, are encouraged. Both basic and clinical areas of research are within the scope of the *Journal*, provided they address mechanisms or yield a functional explanation of processes involving steroids. A further aim of the *Journal* is to provide steroid-related tools, synthesis and analysis methods, and reference data. Sole contributions on case studies or descriptions of new steroid-like compounds will not be considered unless they provide new functional data. Reports on translational research in biotechnologies and biomedicine of steroids are mostly welcomed.

The mission of the *Journal* has developed over many years and will be expanded rather than undergoing wholesale changes. We will take care to include deep drilling studies on steroid signal transduction pathways, functional annotation of genes and kinetics of metabolic pathways, as well as the creation of enduring and validated resources for metabolomics and systems biology analyses. Some new aspects, like lipid research, functional association studies or "omics" that are instrumental in our understanding of common complex human diseases like metabolic syndrome, diabetes or obesity, will be included, while other aspects like translational research, steroid-related cancers or neurosteroids, will remain unchanged within the scope of the *Journal*. The *Journal* aims at a better understanding and development of approaches to study the interplay between the environment, genomes, metabolism and disease.

I wish to close by once again congratulating Professor Pasqualini for his extraordinary efforts on behalf of the *Journal* and expressing my gratitude to him and to the members of past and present editorial boards as well as the staff of the *Journal* who have contributed so greatly to its success.

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