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Preface

Proceedings of the 18th International Symposium of the *Journal of Steroid Biochemistry and Molecular Biology* (Seefeld, Tyrol, Austria, 18–21 September 2008)

This special issue of the *Journal of Steroid Biochemistry and Molecular Biology* contains manuscripts corresponding lectures presented at the 18th International Symposium of the *Journal of Steroid Biochemistry and Molecular Biology*, held in Seefeld, Tyrol, Austria, from 18th to 21st September 2008. The main topics covered were:

1. Steroid receptors, mechanism of action, coactivators and corepressors (including steroid membrane receptors).
2. Steroids and cancer (including new clinical applications in endocrine-related cancers).
3. Control of enzymatic activity in target tissues (sulfatases, aromatases, hydroxysteroid dehydrogenases, hydroxylases, sulfotransferases).
4. Steroids and ageing (menopause and andropause).
5. Steroids and the brain.

Sincere thanks are due to the Local Organizing Committee: Drs. D. Auer, G. Daxenbichler, M. Hubalek, T. Jenewein, and to the staff

of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Universitätsklinik für Frauenheilkunde, Innsbruck, Austria.

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We would like to express our grateful thanks to the various institutions and pharmaceutical firms for their precious support.

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