

Preface

The field pertaining to the study of transient receptor potential (TRP) channels has grown vastly and each chapter in this volume embodies the most relevant and recent findings about their structures and their function. These beautiful proteins continue to astonish us with their complexity and their roles in several physiological and pathophysiological processes. Detailed understanding of their properties will not only shed light on how they work but also allow us to understand how other complex proteins function.

With 16 chapters, this book intends to summarize our current understanding of the neurobiology of these TRP channels. From their structure to functional features to the roles they play in a variety of processes that include vision; mechanical and thermal transduction; skin homeostasis; taste, renal, endocrine, airway, immune, cardiovascular, central nervous systems function; and fertility and aging, the contents of this book highlight the importance of TRP channels in organismal homeostasis.

This volume is made possible thanks to all of the authors, who are internationally renowned researchers in their fields and who contributed carefully written and interesting chapters. I appreciate that they have taken the time to objectively analyze and summarize relevant information on each topic and in the process they have successfully depicted the true spirit of a scientist: love for knowledge.

Science should, by all means, be supported as an act of faith for the future development of humankind. In the light of globally extended cuts to the funding of research activities and the lack of vision that these measures exemplify, we scientists would like to urge funding agencies and governments to carefully evaluate these actions since only the continued effort to engage and attain in scientific discovery, based on uncompromising ethics, will allow humanity to address and overcome all of the problems we face.

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