

PREFACE

First, we really hope that you enjoy this book. Second, a confession – the idea to devote an entire volume of *Fish Physiology* to a single species, zebrafish, was not ours. Thus, although a precedent may have been set, surely Marc and I cannot be held responsible for future volumes bearing titles such as “Eelpout” or “the Gudgeon”. In actual fact, Colin Brauner approached me at a conference several years ago with the suggestion that zebrafish might make a good topic for an upcoming volume. I enthusiastically endorsed his idea but nevertheless felt somewhat deflated when he next asked me if I knew anyone who studied zebrafish who could serve as a guest Editor; I think his exact words may have been “credible guest Editor”. Naturally, I immediately thought of my colleague Marc Ekker who began his research on zebrafish in 1989, a year that saw fewer than 20 zebrafish papers published. Just 20 years later, an astounding 1800 scientific publications on zebrafish biology were produced.

So, here we are a few years after that fateful meeting with Colin – considerably grayer but immensely pleased to introduce this latest volume of *Fish Physiology*. This book presents something more than just ten chapters in key areas of physiology by the world’s leading authorities. It provides, for the first time, a compilation of comprehensive reviews outlining the physiology of zebrafish, the tools used to study zebrafish physiology and the applicability of zebrafish for studies of human disease and aquatic toxicology. As such we hope you and your research programs will benefit.

Needless to say, we are extremely grateful to our authors for their dedication to this project and to Colin and to Tony Farrell for their words of wisdom. We can’t say enough about the helpful professionals at Elsevier, Pat Gonzalez and Kristi Gomez, who patiently guided us along the way and kept us from wandering too far off course. And, of course, we are eternally grateful to Dave Randall and Bill Hoar for conceiving of this wonderful

monograph series that has so beautifully chronicled the evolution of *Fish Physiology* over the past 40 years.

Editing a book is most definitely a learning experience; in this case we have gained a new appreciation of the remarkable variation in the use and interpretation of three of the simplest adjectives used in modern language – soon, nearly and almost.

Steve F. Perry

Marc Ekker

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