

Preface

We are happy to bring this 3rd volume covering the local and systemic use of bone morphogenetic proteins (BMPs) as a part of *Progress in Inflammation Research* edited by Michael J. Parnham, to our readers, including undergraduate students and basic and clinical scientists world-wide.

Since the original description of the remarkable potential of demineralized bone matrix to induce bone at an ectopic site it has taken more than three decades to bring BMPs to clinical use. In 2007, nearly one million patients were treated with BMP-2 or OP-1 (BMP-7) for spinal fusions, nonunions, acute fractures and maxillofacial reconstruction. This has led to the revolution of our understanding of the molecular processes responsible for bone regeneration, in particular when physiological mechanisms of fracture repair fail.

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