

## Transport of peptides, amino acids, and derivatives

### *Editorial*

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The current special issue on the transport of peptides, amino acids, and derivatives has evolved from a very vivid session on this topic at the occasion of the 9<sup>th</sup> International congress on Amino Acids and Proteins (ICAAP) held in Vienna, August 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>, 2005. The first session of this kind initiated by Carol Macleod from the University of California, San Diego, was held 10 years earlier, also in Vienna, and was also followed by a special issue on transport that appeared in 1996. With her initiative Carol set a starting point not only for a series of successful transport sessions at the Amino Acid meetings, but also for larger independent meetings on this topic held alternatively in Europe and the United States every year.

In her Editorial, Carol wrote that a number of amino acid transporters await their discovery, a task that has been accomplished for many transporters within the last ten years. With the still ongoing molecular identification of transport proteins, we are now able to elucidate their mode of function and their complex regulation at the expression as well as the posttranslational level. This knowledge not only helps us to understand pathological mechanism that

involve transporter dysregulation and dysfunction, but also enables us to think about new ways to manipulate cellular metabolism and signaling via transport processes.

These topics – including the discovery of new transporters – have been covered by many brilliant presentations at the transporter session in Vienna last year and also by the review and original articles of this special issue of *Amino Acids*. We would like to thank all the authors for their excellent contributions and hope that this special issue will encourage even more future submissions to this journal on topics in the fast evolving field of amino acid transport. We are also looking forward to the next transporter session at the 10<sup>th</sup> ICAAP that will take place August 21–26, 2007, in Chalkidiki, Greece. As for the previous sessions, we would especially like to encourage young scientist to join us at the upcoming meeting.

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