

Dedication

The present special issue stems from contributions originally presented at the conference on Structure, Dynamics and Function of Proteins in Biological Membranes, which was held at the Monte Verità, Ascona, Switzerland, on March 13–17, 2001. The analysis of the structure–function relationship of membrane proteins has moved from singular exceptions towards a broad range of leading edge examples within the last few years. Therefore, it is very timely to devote a special issue of FEBS Letters to this field of research. In this way we follow the policy of this journal from its very inception, i.e. that of disseminating as fast as possible new, significant advances.

The informed reader will not fail to notice, in going through the list of this issue's contributors, the absence of one of the outstanding figures in this field, Matti Saraste. His group did, in fact, participate in the conference in Ascona, and was invited to contribute to this issue, but Matti's tragic, sudden death put an end to his brilliant scientific career at a far too young age, at the peak of his productivity.

We dedicate this special issue to his memory – to his scientific achievements, to the example in dedication and uprightness which he gave to us all, and to the friendship which united us all. Good bye Matti.

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