Welcome to this double issue Volume 24 numbers 3/4 of the Neuroendocrinology Letters. This issue with most exciting contents, starts with a large introductory section by Professor George Stefano, including Preface--Guest Editorial on ‘Estrogen Genomic and Nongenomic Signaling Processes’ followed by two Original Research Papers (together with Wei Zhu, Kirk Mantione, Dolisha Jones, Elliott Salamon, John J. Cho, Patrick Cadet) and a Review Article (together with John J. Cho, Francesco A. Iannucci, Melissa Fraile, Joseph Franco, Tracy N. Alesius) ‘The Role of the Estrogen in Neuroprotection: Implications for Neurodegenerative Diseases’

Two Invited Review Articles follow: ‘Order and disorder in the brain function’ by Olga Quadens, Brussels, Belgium, and ‘Etiopathogenesis of Graves’ disease by Michal Karasek and Andrzej Lewinski, Lodz, Poland.

After those Review articles follows the Letter to the Editor ‘Is ADHD adaptive or non-adaptive behavior?’ by Zdenek Matejcek, a leading Czech clinical psychologist, author and co-author of several books on psychological deprivation in childhood and principal investigator of the longitudinal study ‘Children born from unwanted pregnancies’ for which work he was awarded by the American Psychological Associations (APA) in 1989. In 1993 he was awarded by APA for Distinguished Contributions on International Advancement of Psychology.

We are happy to present a Case Report by Rob Dickerman, Chris Overby, Mark Eisenberg, Peter Hollis & Mitchell Levine from Department of Neurosurgery, Department of Neurosurgery, North Shore University Hospital, Glen Oaks, NY, USA, colleagues who are publishing on the pages of this journal for the first time.

I would very much like to introduce to you all the following nineteen original papers and their authors in particular. I apologize for not being able to do so due to limited space. I would like to emphasize my deep gratitude to all these distinguished colleagues who contributed to this issue with their outstanding work.

However, let me welcome to this issue the colleagues who submitted their work to the Neuroendocrinology Letters for the first time, to whom I would like to express my special appreciation, namely, Khalid Z. Matalka from the Faculty of Pharmacy and Medical Technology, University of Petra, Amman, JORDAN; Hajime Fukui and Masako Yamashita from the Nara University of Education, Nara, JAPAN; Giuseppe Bersani, Monica Mameli, Alessandra Garavini, Paolo Panceri from the 3rd Psychiatric Clinic, Department of Psychiatric Sciences and Psychological Medicine, and Maurizio Nordio from Department of Medical Physiopathology, University of Rome “La Sapienza”, Rome, ITALY.

It is my great pleasure and privilege to inform you that two illustrious and highly esteemed colleagues have graciously accepted my invitation to the position as Honorary Editors of the Neuroendocrinology Letters, namely Professor Rudolf Klimek, M.D., DrSc., Dr.h.c., FRSM, Chair and Department of Endocrinology and Fertility, Medical College, Jagellonian University, Kraków, POLAND; Professor Branislav Lichardus, M.D., PhD., DSc., Senior Researcher, Inst. of Experimental Endocrinology, Slovak Academy of Sciences and Rector, College of Management (City University Programs), President of the Slovak Academy of Sciences (1992-1996), Bratislava, SLOVAK REPUBLIC.

Also, let me most cordially welcome the following colleagues who kindly accepted my invitation to join the Board of Editors of the Neuroendocrinology Letters, who are named here in the order of appointment date:
On May 21, 2003 the Ceremony for the Zdenek Klein Award for the best work in the fields of Integrated Sciences within Human Ethology published in the Neuroendocrinology Letters, was held at the Charles University, Prague under the Auspices of the Faculty of Humanities (Dean, Prof. Jan Sokol, Ph.D.) the Faculty of Science (Dean, Prof. Pavel Kovár, Ph.D.); and the 3rd Faculty of Medicine, (Prof. Cyril Höschl, M.D., DrSc., Director of the Prague Psychiatric Centre) and the Society of Integrated Sciences with the Seat in Bratislava, Slovak Republic (President, JUDr. Juraj Anetta).

The Recipients for the year 2001 were Prof. Karl Grammer, Dr. Michaela Atzmüller and Dr. Bernhard Fink, Vienna, Austria and James V. Kohl, Nevada, USA; for the year 2002 Prof. Jaak Panksepp, Ph.D., Joseph R. Moskal, Ph.D., Jules B. Panksepp, M.S., Roger A. Koes, Ph.D. from Bowling Green State University, USA. The ceremony was also attended by Austrian, Estonian and Slovak Ambassadors. The Ambassador of US could not be present due to other commitments outside of country. We most cordially congratulate all the recipients for their outstanding work (the Award-winning papers were published in the Neuroendocrinology Letters Vol. 22 No.5, October 2001, and in the Supplement ‘Human Ethology and Evolutionary Psychology NEL Suppl. 4, Vol. 23, 2003).

Inside of this issue you will find a photo-collage from the Ceremony.

In September this year a Supplement ‘Time structures – chronomes – in child development’ honoring the work of Prof. Theodor Hellbrügge (Editor: Germaine Cornélissen, Co-Editors: Othild Schwartzkopff, Petra Niemeyer-Hellbrügge and Franz Halberg) will be published as NEL Supplement 1, Vol. 24, 2003. The contents is displayed online at http://www.nel.edu/24_s1/Time-structures-in-child-development_PREVIEW.htm

The preliminary Preview of the next coming issues of the NEL, October and December 2003 is displayed online at http://www.nel.edu/Press/Latest_from-the-office.htm

Those, interested to order the NEL Supplements 1 and 2, 2002: ‘MELATONIN, Clinical Significance and Therapeutic Application’ and ‘Light, Endocrine Systems and Cancer’, (contents online at http://www.nel.edu/Press/Melatonin.htm) and are now available at a package price of USD 76.00. Please contact the publisher@nel.edu

The contents of NEL Volume 23, 2002 was published in the latest issue, Feb-Apr 2003, and at http://www.nel.edu/24_12/NEL24122003.htm

For your information: On June 15, 2003, ISI has released the Impact Factor for the Neuroendocrinology Letters for the current year – 1.278.

Closings this Editorial, I would like to express my deep gratitude and appreciation to all the Authors and Readers for your most valuable interest in Neuroendocrinology Letters and for your friendly cooperation with us.

Prof. Peter G. Fedor-Freybergh
Editor-in-Chief: Neuroendocrinology Letters