

PREFACE

Ursula Gresser

Recently the combat against HIV and AIDS has gained again public interest as demonstrated by a public announcement of Dr. Angela Merkel, German Chancellor. Dr. Merkel pointed out, that the fight against HIV and AIDS will have priority and her personal support.

With this issue about the role of receptors in the HIV-1 entry process Holzzapfel Publishing House continues a series of thematic issues concerning with topics of immediate interest.

Experts in the field of clinical research and analytical chemistry have compiled a representative collection of important aspects of the HIV-1 receptors and their clinical and pharmacological consequences. All manuscripts are up to date with regard to the latest scientific developments in September 2007.

The identification of the specific chemokine receptors CXCR4 and CCR5 just over a decade ago opened a new chance for treatment of HIV-1 infection. At

September 18th 2007 the first member of a new drug class named as CCR5-antagonists, has been approved by the EMEA and will become available in Germany in the middle of October, Maraviroc (Celsentri®). This is the first approval of an oral available drug in a new class since 1996!

We thank all authors for rapid and excellent work and wish you an informative trip through the world of HIV-1 receptors.

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CURRICULUM VITAE

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Since 1978 Ursula Gresser is working as journalist and correspondent for different publishing companies. In 1984 she graduated in Medicine from Munich University Medical School. From 1984 to 1996 Ursula Gresser worked as a scientific fellow and consultant for Internal Medicine at the Medical Poliklinik of the University of Munich, 1997 she was appointed Professor for Internal Medicine at the University of Munich. In 1996 she was appointed Director Medicine at Springer Publishing House Heidelberg. She was trained in management at the Management Zentrum St. Gallen (MZSG) by Professor Dr. Fredmund Malik.

In 1999 she founded the Praxisklinik Sauerlach together with Professor Dr. René G. Holzheimer and continued her work for Springer Publishing House and the Bertelsmann Group as Media Consultant.

Since 2004 she is working as an independent media and health policy consultant. Ursula Gresser is a recognised expert on a wide range of health and research issues and, as author or co-author of books and articles, as well as as editor, she has published on a wide range of issues like purine metabolism, rheumatology, inborn errors of metabolism, clinical pharmacology, analytical chemistry, imaging techniques, infectious and autoimmune disease, clinical research and economic and social conditions of health care systems.

