

FOREWORD

The idea of conceiving a Symposium specifically dealing with extracellular matrix was born after some discussions in which it appeared clearly the usefulness of putting together the various research groups working on the subject, but using distinct models. At that time, we believed that such procedure, would potentiate the generation of cooperative research networks involving Brazilian scientists interested in extracellular matrix (ECM).

From this original concept, we decided to organize the *1st Brazilian Symposium on Extracellular Matrix* (the so-called SIMEC 90), which was held in September 1990. The quality of scientific presentations was outstanding, and allowed the clearly perception of what is presently being done on ECM research in Brazil. Moreover, some cooperative work among different research groups actually came out, and is presently in progress.

Lastly, by unanimity, it was considered that new SIMECs should take place every two years, what in our opinion means that the *1st Brazilian Symposium on Extracellular Matrix* was a real success.

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Guest Editors