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## Preface

Adrenergic receptors are important modulators in the sympathetic control of various metabolic processes in the central and peripheral nervous systems. These receptors are localized at multiple sites throughout the central nervous system (CNS) and serve as important regulators of CNS-mediated behavior and neural functions, including mood, memory, neuroendocrine control, and stimulation of autonomic function.

*Adrenergic Receptor Protocols* consists of 35 chapters dealing with various aspects of adrenergic receptor analyses, including the use of genetic, RNA, protein expression, transactivator, second messenger, immunocytochemical, electrophysiological, transgenic, and *in situ* hybridization approaches. This volume details the use of various methods to examine the adrenergic receptor system, using aspects of the genetic flow of information as a guide (DNA → RNA → transactivator → protein expression → second messenger analyses → cellular analyses → transgenic whole animal approaches).

*Adrenergic Receptor Protocols* displays step-by-step methods for successful replication of experimental procedures, and would be useful for both experienced investigators and newcomers in the field, including those beginning graduate study or undergoing postdoctoral training. The Notes section contained in each chapter provides valuable troubleshooting guides to help develop working protocols for your laboratory. With *Adrenergic Receptor Protocols*, it has been my intent to develop a comprehensive collection of modern molecular methods for analyzing adrenergic receptors.

I would like to thank the many chapter authors for their contributions. They are all experts in various aspects of adrenergic receptors, and I appreciate their efforts and hard work in developing comprehensive chapters. As Volume Editor, it was a privilege to preview the development of *Adrenergic Receptor Protocols*, and to acquire insight on the various methodological approaches from different contributors. I would like to thank Professor John Walker, Series Editor for *Methods in Molecular Biology*, for his guidance and help in the development of this volume, and Thomas Lanigan, President of Humana Press. I would also like to thank Carol Houser for her administrative assistance in the preparation of manuscripts, and for members of my labora-

tory group, who have been helpful in the early stages of identification of potential chapter topics and contributors. Special thanks are extended to my wife, Dr. Cindy Machida, and my daughter, Cerina, for their support during the long hours involved in the compilation and editing of this volume.

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<http://www.springer.com/978-0-89603-602-4>

Adrenergic Receptor Protocols

Machida, C.A. (Ed.)

2000, XIV, 577 p., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-0-89603-602-4

A product of Humana Press