
Preface

The year 2011 marks the 20th anniversary since the discovery of Jak-Stat signal transduction. During this period we have witnessed the pathway expand from exclusively interferons to other cytokines and beyond. What was once a specialized field has rapidly advanced to become general interest and a must-read in every molecular biology textbook. At the same time a small number of aficionados in a few labs have grown to become a large scientific community meeting at conference series focused on their favorite pathway. The idea to assemble the following book chapters was born at one of these meetings, a FEBS-sponsored event held in February 2010 at Vienna, Austria. We have successfully solicited manuscripts from leaders in the Jak-Stat field, many of whom were participants at the Vienna meeting. We would like to thank them for their work. In addition we gratefully acknowledge input and encouragement by members of the Viennese Jak-Stat special research program and the sponsorship of this program by the Austrian Science Foundation (FWF).

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Thomas Decker
Mathias Müller

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Decker, Th.; Müller, M. (Eds.)

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