

## Preface

Writing on the blood-brain barrier (BBB) has become a multidisciplinary task. In this two-volume handbook we try to cover all the different aspects that need to be considered to picture a modern image of this fascinating physiological phenomenon. During the past decade our knowledge on the BBB has largely improved, and as mentioned in our introduction, the focus has shifted from an endothelio-centric point of view to a more generalized perspective that includes additional cellular adjuncts like astrocytes, pericytes, microglial cells, and even stem cells. Insofar we prefer the term blood-brain interfaces when describing the various constituents that comprise this more holistic architecture of the BBB. It is useless to say that such an endeavor can never be complete, in particular when the different facets involve a host of structural, molecular, and cell biological aspects ranging from ontogenesis to the diseased BBB. The different chapters provide basic knowledge and state-of-the-art information that can be used for further perusal. Especially, the reference lists collected by the authors are treasures of their own, since they set pathways for additional in-depth studies. All contributors are experts in their field with a profound background in BBB research; and the editors are thankful for their enthusiasm which helped them to concentrate on their subjects outside the daily rush of paperwork. From this perspective, we hope this handbook will serve as a rich source of information for a wide audience, including graduate students, advanced undergraduates, and professionals.

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