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## Introduction to III Forum on the Neurobiology of Stress

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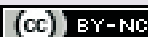
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# Introduction to III Forum on the Neurobiology of Stress, Araraquara, SP, Brazil, September 8-10, 2011

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It is a great pleasure to write this introduction to this Special Issue of the *Brazilian Journal of Biological and Medical Research*, which is dedicated to the III Forum on the Neurobiology of Stress, held in Araraquara, Brazil, on September 8-10, 2011. More than 100 neuroscience researchers met to discuss this multidisciplinary topic with approaches that ranged from chemistry to neurocircuits, the biology of learning to behavioral, hormonal and cognitive changes underlying the expression of emotions. In this way, the meeting provided an outstanding opportunity for cross-disciplinary exchanges of ideas on the exciting theme of neurobiology of anxiety and depression. The Forum was sponsored by the Institute of Neuroscience and Behavior (INeC), which began its activities 5 years ago on the Ribeirão Preto Campus of the University of São Paulo with the mission to promote knowledge in neuroscience and behavior. The program and activities developed by INeC can be found in its website (<http://www.inec-usp.org/>). Its recognized importance for Brazilian neuroscience today is reflected in its growing number of members that has reached approximately 150 researchers. We thank the University of the State of São Paulo (UNESP) and the Interdisciplinary Graduate Program in Physiological Sciences (UNESP-Araraquara and Federal University of São Carlos) for their generous support, which permitted us to organize this conference. We also acknowledge the important contribution of the local organizer Dr. Ricardo Luiz Nunes de Souza, who managed the many issues related to the planning of the meeting.

We are indebted to the guest speakers for their time and effort in writing their papers for this Special Issue. Special thanks are due to Dr. F.G. Graeff for having accepted to serve as Guest Editor of this Special Issue. I am confident that the success of this meeting will stimulate similar initiatives devoted to increasing our understanding of brain function during normal and pathological mental states.