Introduction

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We are delighted to present this special issue of *Cellular and Molecular Neurobiology* as a tribute to celebrated biochemist and Noble Laureate Marshall Nirenberg.

After deciphering the genetic code, Marshall changed research direction from molecular biology to neurobiology. Although what might seem like a radical and an unconventional change in research fields, Marshall's choice actually followed a logical progression of curiosity. With his breakthrough work on the genetic code and the processing of information from DNA to RNA to protein, it led him to wonder if the processing of genetic and heritable information was analogous to another biological system and its neural network—that of the brain. Marshall wanted to know if the processing of sensory and mental information by the brain required a neural code just as the processing of genetic information by all living organisms required a genetic code. As he tackled that question, Marshall launched a new research path that he referred to

as the happiest time of his life; this led to monumental contributions to the field of neurobiology.

Many of Marshall's former postdoctoral fellows, associates and colleagues have contributed articles to this issue in order to commemorate his remarkable scientific work. We would like to acknowledge the help of Deborah Kraut, Program Analyst at NIH for providing the long list of Marshall's former postdoctoral fellows and colleagues, and to Drs. Dolph Hatfield and Alessandra Rovescalli of NIH for their excellent help in tracking and verifying contact information. We are especially grateful to Editor Dr. Juan Saavedra for his unequivocal support and guidance through the journal publishing process.

And so, after coordinating the great efforts of this team of contributors, it is with great pride that we present this glimpse of how Marshall's legacy continues to grow in myriad ways through his fellows' and colleagues' contributions to advancements in molecular and cellular neurobiology.

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