Introduction to: Endocrinological aspects of andrology—what is new?

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After the successful launch of *Reviews in Endocrine & Metabolic Disorders* (REMD) in 2000 by Dr. Derek LeRoith, it is an honor for me to spearhead this very prestigious journal. My vision for REMD is to disseminate contemporary and up-to-date topics in clinical and translational endocrinology that demonstrate their intersection within different disciplines of medicine and other sciences. The individual contributions will be state-of-the-art review articles composed by international experts in the respective field.

My inaugural issue covers andrology, an interdisciplinary field that requires special certification in European countries leading to the designation “andrologist.” REMD had not yet dedicated a special issue to andrology before, although occasional articles had been published in the years 2005 (andropause), 2011 (gonadotropic receptors in health and disease), and 2012 (brain sexual differentiation). It is with great pleasure to acknowledge the guest editor and expert consultant, Professor Michael Zitzmann, an internist, endocrinologist, diabetologist, and andrologist, as well as a Fellow of the European Committee for Sexual Medicine (FECSM).

He assembled an outstanding line of contributing authors to whom we are very thankful.

The first part of the special issue of REMD focusing on Andrology (Andrology Issue I) will deal with various aspects of sexual function in relation to hormones in men. One article reviews the specific situation of the diabetic patient and the development of erectile dysfunction. It is preceded by an article illuminating the pathological connections between obesity and low testosterone, preparing the reader for the clear clinical picture of the article on diabetes mellitus. In addition, sexual function or dysfunction in relation to hormones, remain an important topic in this first andrology issue of REMD. Another article deals with the effects of low or high prolactin levels (a long neglected hormone in andrology) on sexual and behavioural aspects. Given the widespread use of medications to treat male pattern hair loss and/or benign prostatic hyperplasia, we thought it is worthwhile to review medical tampering with the endocrine system by using 5-alpha-reductase inhibitors and thus reducing dihydrotestosterone levels. Finally, the effects of supraphysiological aspects of doping are reviewed.

We are pleased to present this first issue of REMD on Andrology, and we are looking forward to the second issue, which will deal with specific and more rare conditions, the real challenges in male patient care.

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Compliance with ethical standards

Conflict of interest The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.