



ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΚΡΗΤΗΣ
UNIVERSITY OF CRETE

ΤΜΗΜΑ ΙΑΤΡΙΚΗΣ
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



Rapid Responses to Steroid Hormones
7th International Meeting
Crete GREECE

Heraklion January 31, 2011

Dear colleagues

The transcriptional mode of action of steroids has been challenged in the last decade, by the identification of alternative modes of action. In this respect, steroids were found to act rapidly, through binding on cell membranes and triggering of specific intracellular cascades, leading ultimately to the modification of a number of genes. All known steroid families were reported to act through this alternative pathway(s), which led to a better understanding of alternative, previously conflicting data. This rapid mode of steroid action has potential interest as it integrates these small molecules into specific cellular actions from ion movements to cytoskeletal modifications, with potential new pharmacological and therapeutic actions. In this respect, steroids have been shown to act as anti-cancer or neurotrophic agents or to modify the action of known growth factors such as EGF or erythropoietin.

In order to discuss and exchange data and ideas on the subject, since 1998, the scientists involved in the field of rapid steroid actions are gathering together, every two years, at an international meeting for Rapid Steroid Responses which is held in Europe and the States consecutively. **In 2011, the 7th meeting will be organized by the University of Crete, School of Medicine in Crete, Greece from September 14-18, 2011.** In this meeting, various aspects of rapid actions of all sex steroids, vitamin D, and thyroid hormones will be discussed. In addition, topics on new receptor entities will also be presented. Of special interest are two new topics, introduced for the first time in the Crete meeting, namely new molecules dotted with specific rapid steroid effects and translational and physiological aspects of rapid steroid actions. This year's highlight will be "Neurosteroids", a topic only partially covered in previous meetings and of specific interest, in view of novel findings, partially developed in the School of Medicine on the neurotrophic effects of some steroid

molecules. The agenda of the meeting will include 9 different sessions, 30 invited speakers from different countries and one Plenary Lecture on neurosteroids by Synthia Mellon, University of California at San Fransisco, USA. A preliminary organized program and the whole list of invited speakers can be found at the official site of the meeting: <http://steroid-rapid-responses.ucr.edu>.)

We would like to invite you to participate to this meeting in Crete, which is organized as a “retreat” (number of participants is limited to 140) in an excellent place, in order to stimulate scientific discussions and exchange of ideas, especially for young scientists.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Elias Castanas', written in a cursive style.

Dr Elias Castanas

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Marilena Kampa', written in a cursive style.

Dr Marilena Kampa