

FOREWORD

Neurostereology is stereology applied to the central nervous system. It has gained its own name because stereology turned out to be of extraordinary impact and distinct interest in the central nervous system. The last 10-15 years have been fruitful for neurostereology, not least due to the great advantage it offers biologists through basic stereology. Most biologists have only a remote knowledge regarding the field of applied mathematics. Countless hours are still spent in laboratories to obtain biased densities or estimates of cell numbers based on 2-D profile cell counting. The combination of the disector and uniform random sampling has thus revolutionized both the efficiency and the validity of the results obtained in neuroscience. Although neurostereology is just one branch of stereology, it is one of the important "windows" through which scientists worldwide have gained interest and respect for a discipline that has so much to offer.

I want to express my gratitude to all authors and referees for their contributions and critique to this issue of *Acta Stereologica* in which applications and problems of neurostereology are illustrated and exemplified.

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