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This commemorative issue honors Professor Werner Kalow for scientific and personal contributions to pharmacogenetics and ecogenetics. The issue centers on the presentations made at the conference held October 3–6, 1999 at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan. The conference was organized by Wendell Weber, Werner Kalow, and Robert Smith with the assistance of the Scientific Program Committee composed of Emil Skamene, Arno Motulsky, Michael Shi, Maureen Cronin, Telatha Gipson, Bert La Du, and David Price Evans. The subsections of the conference and respective co-chairs were as follows:

- Genetic Defenses Against Infection—Werner Kalow and Emil Skamene
- Response to Foods and Dietary Constituents—Robert Smith and Arno Motulsky
- Responses to Drug and Environmental Toxicants: New Directions in Genetic and Functional Analysis of Pharmacogenetic Traits—Bert La Du and David A. P. Evans
- Considerations Relevant to Diagnostic Pharmacogenetic Testing: Optimizing Drug Discover and Drug Therapy—Michael Shi and Maureen Cronin
- Closing Comments—Gilbert Omenn

The conference was produced with the support of the American Society of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics and the American Association for Clinical Chemistry. In addition to 29 presentations from the conference, the issue also contains the text of Professor Kalow’s presentation of his perspectives on pharmacogenetics and ecogenetics. All of the many individuals, organizations, and companies who contributed to the support of the conference and to the preparation and review of the articles are gratefully acknowledged.

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