Preface

It has been remarkable and rewarding to follow the explosion of work on the steroidogenic acute regulatory protein (StAR) and the classification of a new superfamily of proteins based on a shared StAR-related lipid-transfer (START) domain. Over the past 2 decades more than 1700 articles are tagged using “steroidogenic acute regulatory” as a search term in PubMed. This search captures articles on all START domain proteins, although the majority of the articles are on the expression, regulation and function of the STARD1 subfamily (StAR and STARD3/MLN64) with the cholesterol-binding START domain proteins of the STARD4 subfamily (STARD4/5/6) gaining attention. With 2014 being the 20th anniversary of the first report on StAR, our goals for this book are to present a compendium of the history and the current research on the STARD1 and STARD4 subfamily. Each chapter begins with a personal perspective of the discovery-to-publication journey that the authors had for the particular START domain family member that their laboratory identified or provided studies that quickly and significantly advanced our understanding of the function of these cholesterol transporters. One purpose for this unorthodox format for the scientific review articles herein is to give graduate students, post-doctoral fellows and endocrinology fellows a small glimpse of the research discovery process. We found the theme of collaboration and building upon previous great works is common to all stories.
Cholesterol Transporters of the START Domain Protein
Family in Health and Disease
START Proteins – Structure and Function
Clark, Ph.D., B.J.; Stocco, D.M. (Eds.)
2014, XIV, 190 p. 25 illus., 21 illus. in color., Hardcover
ISBN: 978-1-4939-1111-0