

## Preface

A considerable discrepancy exists between advances in fundamental research about the architecture and regulation of sexual behavior, and the application of this knowledge to social problems. We therefore wished to explore contributions from different disciplinary perspectives to questions about the steering of sexual behavior and sexual emotions. These questions concern:

1. The architecture of steering of sexual behavior and sexual experience as it is described by neuroanatomists and neurophysiologists, by investigators of hormone behavior relationships, and by those studying emotion and motivation.
2. Activation of the sexual response, and regulation of processing from activation to motor output. Mechanisms of subjective sexual experience, social sexual display, or expression of sexual behavior.
3. The social incapacity to understand and eventually modify both hyperactive and hypoactive sexual motivation.

The Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences awarded a generous grant which facilitated the organization of a colloquium on sexual motivation, appetite, and desire.

The colloquium program consisted of five sessions, each covering a specific topic. Speakers in the session on neuroanatomical and neurophysiological aspects were Gert Holstege and Joe Herbert. Behavioral studies in animals were covered by Kim Wallen and Jim Pfaus. Behavioral studies in humans were reviewed by Roy Levin and Ellen Laan. Jan van Hooff and Dorothy Tennov discussed evolutionary theories and theories about love. Finally, Julia Heiman and William Marshall spoke about hypoactive and hyperactive sexual motivation, respectively. Almost all invited speakers were able to provide us with a manuscript of their presentation subject. We are grateful for their cooperation and we hope this book will help them to rethink our memorable meeting in Amsterdam. Their contributions form the content of this book.

Professor David de Wied, past-president of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, was prepared to give an opening speech. Mrs Drs C.M. van den Heuvel, and Mrs M. Giribaldie-Kooy of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences took care of logistics and they provided us with wonderful facilities in their main building. Peter Frugte, coordinator of the Graduate School of

Experimental Psychology, assisted us with his usual kind and well-informed approach. Henry Ketelaar of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences helped prepare the publication of this book.

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