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of species and biological systems has been carried out over the course of the last twenty five years. SCD is a central enzyme in lipid metabolism that synthesizes monounsaturated fatty acids (MUFA) from saturated fatty acid precursors. At first glance, SCD would be considered a housekeeping enzyme because its product oleate is a well-known MUFA that is abundant in many dietary sources and tissue lipids. A particular highlight in the chapters of the book is that MUFAs may have signaling properties that regulate metabolism. For example, a proper ratio of saturated to MUFA contributes to membrane fluidity, and oleate has also been implicated as a mediator of signal transduction, cellular differentiation and metabolic homeostasis. It is also highlighted that SCD-1 repression mediates the metabolic effects of the hormone leptin. Conditional alleles and corresponding tissuespecific knockout mouse models for many of the SCD gene isorfms have provided a wealth of information on not only tissue-specific fatty acid metabolism but also the key transcription factors that regulate SCD expression under a variety of metabolic and genetic backgrounds. The studies described indicate that control of SCD expression occurs via a series of complex signal transduction schemes making SCD one of the most highly studied lipogenic gene families to date.