

## ANNOUNCEMENT

### STEROID REFERENCE COLLECTION

The Steroid Reference Collection, which is maintained by the U.K. Medical Research Council and the U.S. National Institute of Arthritis and Metabolic Diseases, N.I.H., provides milligram or microgram samples of reference steroids free of charge for use in clinical or biochemical studies, including the development and standardization of microassays, chromatography and mass spectrometry.

Recent donations of samples from eminent scientists and from the pharmaceutical industry, as well as syntheses in our laboratories, have expanded the Collection to over 4000 different compounds including steroid hormones and their metabolites, sterols, bile acids and commercial synthetic analogues of the steroid hormones.

The Collection employs a team of chemists who offer assistance with chemical problems involving steroid structures, identification or synthesis. Members of the team are engaged in collaborative research with workers in various clinical, endocrinological and biochemical aspects of steroids. Proposals are invited for new collaborative projects with a chemical content; any proposals should be accompanied by sufficient background information for evaluation by a Steering Committee of the Medical Research Council.

The Collection also offers NMR services ( $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$ ) for the identification of new steroidal compounds, and for structural studies.

Enquiries, requests for information, lists of available steroids, or offers of samples for the Collection, should be addressed to:

*Professor D. N. Kirk*  
*Curator of the Steroid Reference Collection*  
*Chemistry Department*  
*Westfield College*  
*Hampstead*  
*London NW3 7ST, U.K.*

Workers in the U.S.A., however, are asked to address enquiries or requests to:

*Dr D. F. Johnson*  
*Building 4, Room 141*  
*National Institute of Health*  
*Bethesda*  
*MD 20014, U.S.A.*