

PREFACE

A symposium on "*Free-radical- and radiation-induced damage to DNA*" was held at the Max-Planck-Institut für Strahlenchemie in Mülheim a. d. Ruhr, West-Germany, September 25-30, 1988. The main purpose of the symposium was to discuss new results on free-radical damage to DNA and model compounds. The symposium was comprised of the following four sessions:

- Session I: Identification of free radicals in model systems and in DNA
- Session II: Free-radical reactions of DNA model compounds
- Session III: Free-radical reactions of polynucleotides and DNA in aqueous solution
- Session IV: Free-radical-induced damage to DNA in cellular systems

Each session consisted of invited lectures, generally 30 minutes in duration, along with a few shorter presentations lasting 15-20 minutes. A particular feature of the programming was the allowance of a discussion period equal to half the time allocated to the lecture for each presentation. The extended abstracts of this symposium are published in this volume of *Free Radical Research Communications*.

Both from the vigour of the discussions and from the favourable comments of the participants, the extended discussions were a great success. The quality of the presentations and the selection of speakers covering a wide range of research interests lead to a good overview of the whole field. It is already planned to repeat this type of symposium.

We wish to thank all those who helped to organize the meeting, in particular, Mrs. Renate Matten-Meyer, Dr. Heinz-Peter Schuchmann and Dr. Knut Hildenbrand.

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