

Isoproterenol-Induced Cardiac Arrhythmias

The October 1978 issue of the *Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences* (p. 1390) contained a publication from the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions, St. John's University, Jamaica, N.Y., entitled "Hemodynamic Alterations in Isoproterenol-Induced Cardiac Arrhythmias in Corticoid-Treated Rats," under the authorship of Michael A. Barletta, David Lehr, and Giancarlo Guideri.

This article was published by Dr. Barletta without approval or knowledge of the coauthors and did not contain any reference to the Department of Pharmacology, New York Medical College, Valhalla, N.Y., where the described studies had been performed and where both coauthors hold full-time positions. Neither coauthor has any association with St. John's University.

The data described in Dr. Barletta's publication were derived from his thesis research carried out from 1971 to 1974, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for a Ph.D. degree in Pharmacology at New York Medical College, under the sponsorship and guidance of Dr. Lehr and with the supervisory collaboration of Dr. Guideri.

Since Dr. Barletta's thesis had been completed early in 1974, the publication cited above does not encompass the current concepts of the coauthors, which are based on comprehensive additional studies carried out in the 5 intervening years. This is true, in particular, for work on the mechanism of sensitization of the corticoid-pretreated rat to ventricular arrhythmias and ventricular fibrillation by β -adrenergic agonists, as well as the role of α - and β -adrenergic stimulation in the elicitation of arrhythmias in the corticoid-pretreated rat and in the production of experimental myocardial necrosis. These aspects have been investigated by the coauthors in association with Ph.D. candidates Mark Green, Cynthia Healy, and Alison Brown¹⁻⁹.

An article representative of the present status of these investigations and focusing on data obtained by Mark Green in direct continuation of studies in the area of Dr. Barletta's thesis research has been submitted for publication.

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¹ G. Guideri, M. Green, and D. Lehr, *Res. Commun. Chem. Pathol. Pharmacol.*, **21**, 197 (1978).

² D. Lehr, in "Cardiac Toxicology," T. Balazs, Ed., CRC Press, in press.

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