

INTRODUCTION

Proceedings of the Fifth Biennial International Symposium on Alcoholism

The Fifth Biennial International Symposium on Alcoholism drew representatives from twenty countries and, thus, truly represented an international gathering of scientists deeply involved in alcoholism research.

The investigators who presented their work at this symposium included Nobel Prize winners, and the topics which were presented generated significant and enthusiastic discussion among participants. It is hoped that these Proceedings will well reflect the general flavor of the presented work and will generate enthusiasm in the reader.

A broad range of topics is covered in these Proceedings. Included is a description of current research which attempts to generate means of identifying potential alcoholics, even before they start drinking, as well as research into the development of well-based biochemical markers for determining the extent of alcohol use in individuals already chronically consuming alcohol. Furthermore, there are discussions of factors that lead to the development of physical dependence on alcohol, and factors that determine aversive experiences or rewards associated with alcohol consumption. Some of the most current work on the effects of ethanol on enkephalinergic neuronal systems of brain was also pre-

sented at the Symposium and this work is included in these Proceedings.

The success of the Fifth Biennial International Symposium on Alcoholism was primarily the result of the enthusiastic participation by the scientists attending this meeting. The meeting, however, would not have been possible without the financial support provided by a number of international and national agencies and private firms. The success of the meeting also required the hard work of the Planning Committees, the members of which are listed in the initial pages of this volume.

Finally, thanks have to be extended to the devoted administrative staff, consisting of Frances Gragg and Jane Whitener, as well as Jenny Stephen, who made the meeting function smoothly and efficiently.

This meeting constituted the initial function of the International Society for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism and it is hoped that all the future Society sponsored events will be as well received.

BORIS TABAKOFF, Ph. D.
for the Organizing Committee

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