

JOURNAL OF STEROID BIOCHEMISTRY

Opening Remarks

This issue contains the papers and discussions presented at the *Second International Symposium of the Journal of Steroid Biochemistry on Recent Advances in Steroid Biochemistry*. It is the second Symposium of a series which will be held every two years. The first meeting which included the *Theoretical and Practical Aspects of the Interaction of Steroids with Macromolecules* was published as a special issue of the *Journal of Steroid Biochemistry* in April 1972 (Vol. 3 No. 3).

The present meeting concerns the *Recent Advances in Steroid Biochemistry* and comprises 3 main topics. The first is on *Recent Developments in Methodology* which deals with the latest methods used for the evaluation and identification of steroids as well as the purification of specific receptors which bind steroid hormones. The second part concerns *Steroidogenesis and Trophic Hormones*. Questions on steroid hormone biosynthesis began to be posed immediately after the discovery of the hormones themselves, and the first studies on the problems of steroid biosynthesis were carried out in the early fifties. Since this time, important progress has been achieved in the study of the Mechanism of Steroidogenesis, particularly in the demonstration of new pathways, purification of the enzymes involved as well as studies of the control of these enzymatic systems including the factors and co-factors necessary for these processes. The third topic covers *Mechanism of Action of Steroid Hormones* which includes recent data and new problems in the interaction of specific receptors with steroid hormones as well as recent developments in the relationship between the receptors of steroid hormones and the biological activity of these hormones in target organs.

We would like to express our thanks to all the participants for their active collaboration, particularly for their presentation of their papers and discussions. Our deepest thanks are due to Drs. H. Adlercreutz, E. Jensen, A. Kellie, R. Neher, A. Sandberg and C. Villee who acted as Chairmen or assisted in the scientific organisation.

We thank Ms. J. Francois and C. Sumida for their efficient co-operation in the preparation of the meeting and the transcription of the discussions and extend our great appreciation to Ms. C. Gelly and Mr. G. Ruget for their kind help during the symposium.

Finally, we would like to express our gratitude to Pergamon Press, the Foundation for Hormone Research, The Radiochemical Centre, Packard Instrument, Synsteroids and NEN Chemicals for their financial support.

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Editor