

PREFACE

The third international Symposium of the *Journal of Steroid Biochemistry* on Recent Advances in Steroid Biochemistry was held at the Theoretical Institutions of the Medical Faculty in Helsinki (Finland) on 7-9 June 1976. It is the third of a series which is held every 2 years. The first was held in Paris 1971 and published in a special issue of the *Journal of Steroid Biochemistry* in April 1972 (Vol. 3, No. 3). The second Symposium was also held in Paris in March 1974 and published in the December issue of the same year (Vol. 5, No. 8). In the present Symposium four main topics were presented and discussed. The first deals with *Steroids and Cancer*; it is very well known that significant progress has been made during the last years in this field and in particular in the relationship of the presence of specific hormone receptors and endocrine treatment (ablative or additive) of this disease. The second topic is *Steroids and Hypertension*; the recent discovery of new steroids related to hypertension has provided important advances in the better understanding of the pathophysiology of this disorder. The third topic *Mechanism of Action of Steroid Hormones* includes the recent developments on the interaction of steroid hormones with specific macromolecules as well as the intermediate steps of their biological activities. The fourth part treats the relation of *Steroids and Neuroendocrine functions*. Great advances have been achieved during the last years on the action

and biological effects of steroid hormones in brain, hypophysis, hypothalamus and other neuroendocrine tissues.

We would like to express our deepest thanks to all the Finnish and Foreign firms who contributed financially:

Finnish Ministry of Education; Foundation for Hormone Research, France; Lääketehdas Leiras, Turku, Finland; Organon International B. V. Oss, The Netherlands; Orion-Yhtymä Oy Lääketehdas Orion, Helsinki, Finland; Oy Star Ab, Tampere, Finland; Pergamon Press, Oxford England; Schering A. G. Berlin, W. Germany; Sigrid Jusélius Foundation, Helsinki, Finland. We are grateful for the active collaboration of all the participants, particularly for the presentations of their paper and discussions. We especially acknowledge with gratitude the efforts of Dr. H. Adlercreutz which made possible the organisation of this symposium in the city of Helsinki. Our thanks are due to Drs. J. Crabbé, T. H. Hamilton, E. V. Jensen, A. Kellie A. Munck, L. Martini and B. O'Malley for acting as Chairmen or assisting in the scientific organisation.

We thank Mss J. Francois, and C. Sumida for their efficient co-operation in the preparation of the meeting and the transcription of the discussions.

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Editor