

PREFACE

This special issue of *The Journal of Steroid Biochemistry and Molecular Biology* contains the scientific material presented at the *2nd International EORTC Symposium on Hormonal Manipulation of Cancer: Peptides, Growth Factors and New (Anti-)steroidal Agents* which was held in Rotterdam, The Netherlands, on 9–11 April 1990. The 3-day program focussed on new biological findings and endocrine therapeutic approaches in the area of a broad spectrum of malignant tumors. The main topics covered during this symposium were as follows:

Peptide Hormones and Cancer

- LHRH-analogs
 - Depot preparations
 - Prostate cancer
 - Breast cancer
 - Ovarian and other cancers
- Somatostatin analogs
 - Experimental and clinical studies
- Cholecystokinin antagonists
- Prolactin
 - Significance of hyperprolactinemia and prolactin receptors

Significance of Oncogenes, Growth Factors and Proteins

- Oncogenes
- Growth factor receptors
- pS2 protein
- Cathepsin D
- Prognostic value
- Interrelationship between hormones and growth factors
- Bone metastases and growth factors
- Potential new treatment modalities

Use of Hormones not as Inhibitory but as Stimulatory Agents in Combination with Chemotherapy

- Rescue/recruitment studies
- New anti-steroidal agents
 - Antiestrogens, anti-progestins, antiandrogens
- New aromatase inhibitors
- New applications for hormonal treatment.

In total there were 68 oral and 137 poster presentations. All of the 200 abstracts have been published in the *European Journal of Cancer* **26** (1990) 142–197. The symposium was visited by more than 500 specialists of various disciplines such as medical oncology, endocrinology, internal medicine, urology, gynecology, surgery, radiotherapy, biochemistry, cell biology and pharmacology. This symposium underlined the important role of hormones and/or growth factors in the growth regulation of many types of cancer. The number of hormonal agents and endocrine treatment modalities are rapidly increasing. Also, the number of clinical indications for endocrine treatment has gradually increased. Significant improvement of treatment results has been reported for several subgroups of patients, in addition to promising results of new treatment modalities in experimental models. These findings, together with the, in general, relatively low toxicity of endocrine therapy, stress the importance of research in the field of endocrine oncology today and in the future.

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