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# BOOK REVIEWS

**Hormones and Cell Regulation.** Colloques INSERM, Vol. 139. 10th European Symposium. Edited by J. NUNEZ, J. E. DUMONT and R. J. B. KING. First published 1986 by John Libbey Eurotext Ltd., Montrouge, France. No. of pages: 286. ISBN: 0-86196-084-X. Price: FF 380; US$ 74.

The *10th European Symposium on Hormones and Cell Regulation*, held at Mont Sainte Odile, Alsace, France on 30 September–3 October, 1985 concentrated on three topics: hormone action; phosphoinositols and various aspects of protein phosphorylation. The last years have seen major advances in our knowledge of steroid hormone action, largely deriving from the use of immunological, molecular biological and cell biological techniques. It was therefore timely to have an overview of this topic together with a discourse on specificity of steroid action as studied by transfection of mouse mammary tumour virus components into hormone-sensitive cells.

The main topics covered in this volume are:

—Steroid hormone action;
—Phosphoinositol;
—Peptide hormone action;
—Protein phosphorylation and sulfation.

This volume would be very useful for people working in the fields of molecular biology, biophysics, biochemistry, and endocrinology.

**Hormones and Cell Regulation.** Colloques INSERM, Vol. 198. 14th European Symposium. Edited by J. NUNEZ and J. E. DUMONT. First published 1989 by John Libbey Eurotext Ltd., Montrouge, France. No. of pages: 124. ISBN: 0-86196-229-X. Price: FF 240; US$ 47.

The *14th European Symposium on Hormones and Cell Regulation* focused on two complementary areas, the first of which concerns gene regulation including the control of protooncogenes and antioncogenes. The studies presented start from the fundamental problems of the control of gene expression and, considering the modulation of protooncogenes and antioncogenes in cell proliferation, end up with the role of oncogenes in cell transformation. The second area covers the relation of the cell with its environment through ionic channels and receptors for extracellular signals. In these fields also the genes of the proteins are cloned or about to be cloned and the sequences will provide crucial information on their function.

The following main topics are covered in this volume:

—Surface receptors and cyclases;
—Regulation of gene expression;
—Growth factors;
—Control mechanisms in other systems;
—Ion channels.

This volume would be very useful for people working in the fields of molecular biology, biophysics, biochemistry, and endocrinology.

**Anticancer Drugs.** Colloques INSERM, Vol. 191. Edited by H. TAPIERO, J. ROBERT and T. J. LAMPIDIS. First published 1989 by John Libbey Eurotext Ltd., Montrouge, France. No. of pages: 378. ISBN: 0-86196-223-O. Price: FF 360; US$ 70.

This volume presents the lectures and discussions of the *First International Interface of Clinical and Laboratory Responses to Anticancer Drugs* pertaining to the fields of cancer pharmacology and cancer chemotheraphy. The aim of this meeting was to promote interface between clinicians and scientists, to understand mechanisms responsible for the failure or the advances in cancer chemotherapy during latter years. Its success is ascribed to the contribution of its participants from all continents and to the high scientific level. The questions raised concerned mechanisms of cell death or resistance, the significance of tumor cell heterogeneity for drug effects, and how information on determinants of drug action can be utilized to design selective drugs for chemotherapy.

The following chapters are included:

—Screening of oncogene function inhibitors, possible antitumor agents;
—Mitochondria as a reservoir for anticarcinoma drugs;
—Relationship of chemical charge of anticancer agents to increased accumulation and cytotoxicity in cardiac and tumor cells: relevance to multi-drug resistance;
—New anthracycline analogues directed against DNA topoisomerase II;
—Bifunctional intercalators, a new class of antitumor drugs able to induce futile DNA repair;
—Clinical aspects of drug modulation and potentiation;
—DNA as target for anticancer drug action;
—Role of reactive oxygen metabolites in the cytotoxicity of anticancer quinones;
—Pathways of resistance to topoisomerase II inhibitors;
—The involvement of glutathione *S*-transferases in drug resistance;
—Mechanism of target cell lysis by cytotoxic cells, factor and drugs;
—Immunomodulation by anticancer agents: adriamycin and tumor necrosis factor;
—Induction of tumor cell differentiation as a common mechanism of action of DNA-specific antitumor agents;
—Induced cytodifferentiation of transformed cells: an approach to cancer treatment;
—Correlation between oncostatic, differentiating, immunologic and virostatic agents and actions: experimental and clinical studies.

This volume would be very useful for oncologists, clinicians, and pharmacologists.