Preface

We are pleased to introduce this special issue of European Neurology, entitled ‘Sumatriptan: From Molecule to Man’. The articles gathered in this issue report, for the first time in an academic journal, full results from several major international controlled trials of oral and subcutaneous sumatriptan in the acute treatment of migraine. Publication of these results, therefore, marks an important milestone in the development of a highly promising new therapy. Among the investigators who have contributed to these papers are many of the key experts responsible for the development of sumatriptan and its assessment in the clinical environment. Moreover, this issue also features a first report of trials using an intranasal formulation of sumatriptan, and early experience with an auto-injector device which patients have been able to use at home. Each of these papers was presented at the 8th Migraine Trust International Symposium, held in London in September 1990. The symposium committee set aside a whole day in its scientific programme to learn of these encouraging results, emphasizing the need for better acute treatment and the hope that sumatriptan will benefit many millions of migraine sufferers.

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