Preface

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The following papers derive from a symposium on pharmaco-EEG entitled ‘Workshop on Drug Classification’, which took place under the auspices of the International Pharmaco-EEG Group in Boca Raton, Fla., USA, on May 24, 1992. The assistance of the IPEG in the organization of the symposium is gratefully acknowledged.

The focus of this symposium, the first one held in this area of research, was to give an overview of methods used to characterize and/or classify drugs with the aim of predicting clinical indications. Such information is important, not only for the development of experimental paradigms with which to probe the functional relevance of centrally acting drugs by in vivo electrophysiological research, but also for assisting the realization of the clinical potential of newly developed drugs. Different approaches have been chosen for the study of drug effects on the electrical brain activity in different animals. Study of the effects of drugs on the spectral content of the EEG, as well as of the changes in sleep architecture under drugs, paralleled those in human and led to a better understanding of the mode of action of a drag and thus to a better prediction of the clinical applicabilities.

I hope that the contributions as presented at the symposium and in this volume will underline the unique possibilities of this window on the concerted output of the most complicated machinery in nature.

117