2nd Sectoral Meeting on in vitro Evaluation of the Toxicity and Pharmacological Activity of Molecules

Innsbruck/Igls, April 5–8, 1994

W.	Walter	Pfaller
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Institute of Physiology, University of Innsbruck, Austria

Institute of Physiology, University of Innsbruck, Fritz Preglstrasse 3, A-6010 Innsbruck (Austria)

Foreword

It is a privilege and honour to have the opportunity to introduce to the readers of *Cellular Physiology and Biochemistry* the research results of the final meeting of the BRIDGE Programme on in vitro Toxicopharmacology, held in Innsbruck/Igls, Austria, from April 5 to 8, 1994.

This programme – Biotechnology Research for Innovation, Development and Growth in Europe – was initiated and funded by the Commission of the European Communities (CEC). Research groups from all over Europe have been working on 9 different topics related to the development of in vitro model systems for toxicopharmacological investigations. This meeting served as a platform to promote the flow of information between the different laboratories, collaborating research groups and industry.

The major goal of this BRIDGE programme was to establish and characterize appropriate cell culture systems derived from various organs and tissues to study the mode of action and target specificity of drugs and xenobiotics.

The research activities presented here are aimed at obtaining useful in vitro alternatives to animal experiments in toxicopharmacological testing.

The material covers a broad spectrum of cell and tissue culture techniques of general interest to the readers of this Journal.

We gratefully acknowledge the willingness of the editor Prof. Florian Lang to promote the publication of the abstracts in this Journal and financial support of the CEC, DG XII, which made this publication possible.

Innsbruck, July 1994 Walter Pfaller

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