Preface

T.		Aso
S.		Kawagoe
A.		Miyake
H.		Mori
Y.		Nakamura
Y.		Taketani

This supplementary issue of Hormone Research comprises the Proceedings of the 3rd Tokyo Conference on Reproductive Physiology, held on the 24th August 1991, and whose theme was assigned to 'New Aspects of the Physiology and Pathology of the Luteal Phase¹.

Despite long-standing and heated discussions on this topic, clear-cut and satisfactory conclusions are still lacking. Three explanations for this situation can be given. (1) It has been difficult to get an animal experimental model to simulate the human luteal-phase defect. (2) Little is known about the physiology of the luteotropic and luteolytic mechanisms in humans. (3) We do not yet know the most exact and appropriate means of assessing luteal function. Moreover, no rational explanation has been forthcoming for the clinical relationship between the luteal-phase defect and infertility. Recent textbooks on clinical practice in

infertility treatment have tended to avoid assigning a special chapter to the luteal-phase defect, reflecting, perhaps, the difficulties that have been encountered trying to discuss a possible causal relationship between the defect and female infertility.

In this half-day-long conference, many fruitful results from fundamental research and clinical findings were presented, which will, we hope, stimulate further studies in this still far from clear sphere of reproductive biology.

Finally, the members of the organizing board would like to express their deep gratitude to Professor Masahiko Mizuno, Chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Tokyo, for his excellent advice, and to Japan Sandoz Co. Ltd., whose sponsorship of the conference contributed to its success.

Organizing Board (in alphabetical order)

Takeshi Aso

Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology Tokyo Medical and Dental University Tokyo (Japan)

Shinnosuke Kawagoe

Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology

Yamagata University

Yamagata (Japan)

Akira Miyake

Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology

Osaka University

Osaka (Japan)

Hiroyuki Mori
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Teikyo University
Tokyo (Japan)
Yukio Nakamura
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Kyorin University
Tokyo (Japan)
Yuji Taketani
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Tokyo University
Tokyo (Japan)