Preface

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This supplement is the proceedings of the Tokyo Conference on Reproductive Physiology, which was held on August 27, 1994. The topic of the conference was 'Endocrine regulation of early embryonic development and implantation'. The conference was planned in accordance with the previous conference in 1993, 'Local regulators in the ovary: paracrine and autocrine control'. Since this topic is ethically difficult to study in humans, little is known about the physiology and phenomenon of embryonic development in the human oviduct. Therefore, the organizing board invited 3 zoologists as guest speakers. The information concerning the effects of the endocrine environment on the development of the conceptus in animal oviducts, as presented by these investigators, was helpful in understanding the phenomena in human oviducts.

Although 5 gynecologists presented the current data on the relationship between the environment for implantation and many endocrinological substances, various other factors are involved in implantation. Further investigation is necessary to clarify what the major regulator is in humans, and whether or not exogenous substances facilitate implantation.

We would like to thank all the invited speakers and participants of the conference for their active discussions which made the conference a great success. We would also like to express our particular thanks to Sandoz Pharmaceuticals Ltd., whose sponsorship enabled us to hold the conference and publish this supplement.

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