Foreword

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Since its discovery by Guillemin and his group in 1972, somatostatin has greatly stimulated both basic and clinical research, the results of which have benefited many different fields of medicine. Nonetheless, it was the somatostatin analogue, octreotide, whose longer half-life, finer specificity for inhibition of growth hormone, and higher potency, rendered it uniquely useful for treatment of acromegaly and gastroenteropancreatic tumors. Since its initial application, the role of octreotide in medicine has been expanded to include a wider spectrum of diseases, with promise of still further therapeutic potential.

Twenty years after the discovery of somatostatin, and 10 years after the synthesis of its analogue, it was felt that the time had come to review and share the most recent information on octreotide and somatostatin, by way of holding an international symposium. Hence, a 1991 meeting in Monte Carlo brought together a variety of specialists from many different fields, who presented overviews and data from their area of expertise. The intention of the meeting, to make invisible the border between scientific and clinical disciplines in a synergistic effort to stimulate new research, was successfully met. It was, in fact, a multiply represented group composed of basic scientists, chemists, endocrinologists, gastroenterologists, gynecologists, and surgeons, who sat side by side and shared their individual findings to reach a common goal.

With the support of Sandoz Pharma Ltd., the information gathered from this meeting has been accumulated in these proceedings, for distribution to scientists and clinicians who have interest in this topic. Deepest gratitude is extended to the sponsor, authors, and all participants whose great efforts made the meeting such a success, and the following proceedings a reality.