Foreword

The problems involved in the growth and loss of hair are in fact a fascinating scientific challenge and the possession of a luxurious head of hair has always been a profound aesthetic concern of mankind. There is no doubt that the first scientific study of the biology of the human hair was performed by Raymond Sabouraud at the beginning of this century. His clinical description of the fate of scalp-hair, from childhood to senescence, still remains classic. However, Sabouraud could not solve this problem by the techniques known at his time. It is the merit of Prof. William Montagna to have initiated the modern era of investigation of the biology of hair within a broad framework including phylogenesis, ontogenesis, anatomy, histology, biochemistry and endocrinology. Prof. Baccaredda-Boy was one of the first to pursue these investigations
and to recognize their importance for experimental and clinical
dermatology. He created in his clinic in Genoa a research Center devoted
to this problem which has been developed in a brilliant way by
the unremitting effort of Prof. Moretti and his collaborators.
We are indebted to this group to have organized this Symposium
and welcome the opportunity to be hosts of a meeting assembling so
many eminent scientists from all over the world. We are confident that
their discourse and informal exchange of experience will provide the
soil for new ideas which are the requisites of progress in basic research.

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Contents

Introduction 1
Baccaredda-Boy, A. (Genoa) 1

Phylogenesis and Ontogenesis 9
Montagna, W. and Uno, H. (Beaverton, Ore.) : The Phylogeny of Baldness 9
Serri, F. (Pavia) : Hair Follicle in Fetal Life 25
Pecoraro, V. ; Astore, I. and Barman, J. M. (Rosario) : The Pre-Natal and Post-Natal Hair Cycles in Man 29

Heredity and Hormones 39
Salamon, T. (Sarajevo) : Genetic Factors in Male Pattern Alopecia 39
Ludwig, E. (Hamburg) : The Role of Sexual Hormones in Pattern Alopecia... 50
Stuettgen, G. and Goerz, G. (Frankfurt/Main): Non-Sexual Hormones and
Male Pattern Alopecia 61

The Hair 69
Pinkus, H. (Detroit, Mich.) : Static and Dynamic Histology and Histochemistry of Hair Growth (with 1 colour plate) 69
Santolani, P. and Mangoni di S. Stefano, C. (Naples) : Nudeoproteins and their Catabolic Products Within the Hair 82
Moffat, G. H. (Brooklyn, N. Y.) : The Kinetics of Cell Populations in the Growing Hair Follicle of the Mouse as Revealed by Autoradiography Using 3H-TdR 90
Allegra, F. (Parma) : Histology and Histochemical Aspects of the Hair Follicles in Pattern Alopecia 107
Braun-Falco, O. and Christophers, E. (Marburg/Lahn): Hair Root Pattern in Male Pattern Alopecia 141

The Sebaceous Gland 146
Ellis, R. A. (Providence, R.I.) : Electron Microscopy of Sebaceous Glands ... 146
Rampini, E.; Bertamino, R. and Moretti, G. (Genoa): Size and Shape of Sebaceous Glands in Male Pattern Alopecia 155
Strauss, J. S. and Pochi, P. E. (Boston, Mass.): The Changes in Human Sebaceous Gland Activity with Age 166
Maibach, H. I.; Feldmann, R.; Payne, B. and Hutshell, T. (San Francisco, Calif.) : Scalp and Forehead Sebum Production in Male Patterned Alopecia ... 171

The Dermis 177
Moretti, G.; Cipriani, Carla and Rebora, A. (Genoa) : Biochemical Aspects of Hair Growth in the Rat 177

X Contents

Crovato, F.; Moretti, G. and Bertamino, R. (Genoa): Histochemistry of Dermis and Blood Vessels in Male Pattern Alopecia (with 1 colour plate) 191
Rebora, A.; Cipriani, Carla and Moretti, G. (Genoa) : Biochemical Aspects of Male Pattern Alopecia 200
Giacometti, L. and Montagna, W. (Beaverton, Ore.): The Nerve Fibers in Male Pattern Alopecia 208

Conclusions 216
Baccaredda-Boy, A. (Genoa) 216