Brain-Pituitary-Adrenal Interrelationships

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Brain-Pituitary-Adrenal
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Foreword
The present symposium was organized to stem a developing void and to generate greater interest and research activity on Brain-Pituitary-Adrenal Interrelationships. Participants from throughout the world assembled to examine the present status and to anticipate future needs and developments in this extremely important, but as yet unsettled, area of endocrinology. Among the subjects considered in detail were the usefulness and reliability of the various assays for ACTH and CRF, current understanding of the hypothalamic as well as extra-hypothalamic mechanisms that control ACTH secretion, complexities of steroid feedback inhibition, neuronal monoamine activity and hormone release, and finally the phylogenetic generalities of the pituitary-adrenal complex. In retrospect, it is our belief that this meeting was highly successful in reaffirming a sense of past accomplishment and in generating a feeling of challenge and enthusiasm for the future.

We thank all the participants for their outstanding contributions and for the positive spirit that prevailed throughout the meeting. Constructive, but pointed, criticisms characterized the sessions and benefited all involved. Special thanks are due the individuals who served as chairmen of the different sessions: M. A. Greer, K. M. Knigge, G. Sayers, F. E. Yates. By provoking and leading the discussions, the chairmen contributed significantly to the value of the symposium. We are grateful for the financial support provided by the G. D. Searle and Company and Eli Lilly & Company and in particular for the generous contribution made by the Merrell-National Laboratories. We express our appreciation to the University of Cincinnati for making available the hospitable facilities that contributed to the success and enjoyment of the meetings. Finally, we wish to thank our publisher, Mr. Thomas Karger and his staff, for dedicated efforts in prompt publication of this volume.

Alvin Brodish
Edward S. Redgate

Opening Remarks

It is a pleasure to extend a warm welcome to the symposium on Brain-Pituitary-Adrenal Interrelationships. We are fortunate in having a distinguished group of participants from throughout the world and we look forward to a productive and enjoyable exchange of ideas in a relatively
informal setting.
This meeting was arranged in order to fill a growing and perhaps even a pressing need to stimulate and focus greater attention on the pituitary-adrenal system. In the past, the pituitary-adrenal system was a focal point of endocrine research only to be overshadowed more recently by interest in other areas of endocrinology. When we attempt to explain the tinning of the tide from the pituitary-adrenal system to other endocrine systems, it becomes obvious that two factors are largely responsible for this shift in emphasis: (1) development and availability of reliable assays for detection of hormones in small volumes of blood; (2) the high priority placed upon immediate application of the results of experimental investigations. In essence, it is the instability of the pituitary-adrenal system as well as the difficulties encountered in assaying for the hormones of this system that have discouraged many investigators who at one time or another were embarked on this course. On the other hand, the dynamic changes associated with this instability makes it imperative that we understand the forces that exert control and offers a formidable challenge to those of us who have persisted in our investigations of the pituitary-adrenal system. We here might consider ourselves remnants of the past or, more hopefully, leaders of the future. We can by our deliberations here develop a resurgence of interest in the pituitary-adrenal system that can have farreaching consequences for the future. We hope that this symposium will

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propel interest and excitement so that the pituitary and adrenal will once again take its place in the sun and be a source of inspiration and challenge. This is our opportunity.

June 14, 1972
Cincinnati, Ohio

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