Enzymes in Health and Disease

Inaugural Scientific Meeting of the International Society for Clinical Enzymology
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Enzymes in
Health and Disease

Editors
David M. Goldberg, Toronto, Ont., and J. Henry Wilkinson†, London

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Introduction

The International Society for Clinical Enzymology was founded at a meeting held in Venice in April 1976 during the Seventh International Symposium on Clinical Enzymology. Its inaugural scientific meeting, the proceedings of which form the subject of the present volume, was held in September 1977 at Charing Cross Hospital Medical School, London, by kind permission of the Council of the Medical School. The conference was attended by about 200 participants from no less than 22 different countries, thus fully justifying use of the adjective ‘International’.

The scientific programme was preceded by a short opening ceremony when members were welcomed by Mr. L. C. Graham-Dixon, QC, Chairman of Council of Charing Cross Hospital Medical School, and good wishes for the success of the meeting and the future of the Society were expressed by Dr. J. C. A. Raison, Chief Scientific Officer of the Department of Health and Social Security, and Dr. J. Frei, President of the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry, under whose sponsorship the meeting was held.

In a three-day conference it is not possible to include all topics of interest and the Organizing Committee decided to restrict the programme to the pathophysiology of enzymes, methodology and standardization, cell enzymes, clinical interpretations, and approaches to enzyme therapy.

The Organizing Committee, which consisted of Professor D.N. Baron, Dr. G.R. Doran (Secretary-Treasurer), Dr. P. J. N. Howorth (representing the Association of Clinical Biochemists), Professor D. W. Moss, Dr. S. B. Rosalki
and Professor J.H. Wilkinson (Chairman), would like to thank all the contributors to the present volume. They are especially indebted to Mrs. Ann Cater and Mrs. Marj Fleming for their valuable secretarial services before, during and after the meeting. Support from the following companies is also gratefully acknowledged: BDH Chemicals Ltd., The Boehringer Corporation (London) Ltd., Calbiochem Ltd., Coulter Electronics Ltd., LKB Instruments Ltd., Fisons Ltd., Pye-unicam Ltd., G.D. Searle & Co. Ltd., Smith Kline Instrument Co. Ltd., Technicon Instrument Co. Ltd., and Union-Carbide (UK) Ltd.

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D. M. Goldberg
J. H. Wilkinson

John Henry Wilkinson (1915-1977)

On November 29th, 1977, John Henry Wilkinson, Professor of Chemical Pathology at Charing Cross Hospital Medical School and President of the International Society for Clinical Enzymology, died unexpectedly. Known throughout the scientific community for his many original papers, and in particular for his treatises: ‘An Introduction to Diagnostic Enzymology’ (1962), ‘Isoenzymes’ (1965 and 1970), and ‘Principles and Practice of Clinical Enzymology’ (1976), Professor Wilkinson first entered the academic scene in 1947 through an appointment at the Department of Chemical Pathology of the Westminster Hospital Medical School. There, during an 18-year period, he rose to be appointed Reader and added the Doctorate in Science to the Doctorate of Philosophy which he already held. He crossed the Atlantic in 1965 to take up the Chair of Clinical Chemistry in the University of Pennsylvania, but returned in 1969 to the position he held until his decease. During his busy scientific career, he held the following offices: President of the Association of Clinical Biochemists of the United Kingdom (1973); President of the Pathology Section of the Royal Society of Medicine (1977); and Member of the Editorial Boards of the journals Clinica Chimica Acta, Enzyme, and Clinical Chemistry. Among the many honours he received, mention should be made of the following: ‘Clinical Chemist of the Year Award’ (American Association of Clinical Chemists, 1970), ‘Wellcome Prize’ (Association of Clinical Biochemists, 1974), and the ‘Gianfranco Galanti Award’ (1976). He was honoured by the Fellowships of the Royal Institute of Chemistry and the Royal College of Pathologists, but his crowning achievement was his election by Her Majesty to the Commandership of the British Empire in 1977. His loss will be
mourned by his family, friends, and colleagues, and not least by the Members of the International Society for Clinical Enzymology to whom he had provided outstanding leadership since its inception.